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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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**Matza imports may be needed after fires at factories**

By HAIM SHAPIRO and YORAM GAZIT  
 Jerusalem Post Reporters

The Chief Rabbinate is considering importing matza to meet a possible shortage caused by three recent fires at matza factories. The matza would be imported from Holland, the U.S. or England.

The alternative to imports would be allowing matza factories to operate during the intermediate days of Pesach. But this creates halachic problems, because of the strict prohibition against owning any type of leavened food during the holiday and the possibility that a piece of dough could rise by itself.

There is a new matza factory in Jerusalem which could meet the shortfall, but so far it has not answered the rabbinate's pleas to step up production.

Despite the plans for importing matza, the Chief Rabbinate is still hoping that there will be no shortage. The police yesterday launched a formal investigation of the blazes that gutted storerooms at matza factories three times in a month-and-a-half, following evidence that the fires were caused by arson.

Two of the fires occurred at the Matzot Yisrael factory in Petah Tikva; the third hit the Matzot Aviv plant in Bnei Brak. Both factories belong to the country's largest matza company, owned mainly by the Danenberg, Wolf and Rabina families. The factories produce 40-60 per cent of the country's matza.

## Gaza man shot dead after lobbing petrol bomb

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT and JOEL GREENBERG  
 Jerusalem Post Reporters

A Gaza teenager was killed and a number of other people were wounded in clashes with Israeli forces in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday. A spate of demonstrations, rock-throwing and petrol-bomb attacks in the territories made for more disturbances than on Sunday, which was Land Day.

An 18-year-old inhabitant of the al-Bureij refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was shot dead by Border Policemen when he fled after throwing a petrol-bomb, according to military sources. Ahmed Abu Saifan threw the bomb at a Border-Police patrol in the camp, the sources said. The bomb missed and exploded against the wall of a school.

The troops ordered him to halt, the sources said, but he fled. When he continued running after troops fired into the air, he was shot and fatally wounded, the sources added.

In a demonstration at the camp afterwards an inhabitant was shot and wounded in the shoulder by Israeli troops, Palestinian sources reported. Army sources said they had not received reports about the incident.

Three Palestinian students were wounded at the old campus of Bir Zeit University in the West Bank when the army forcibly dispersed a demonstration and fired at students. (Continued on Page 7)

## 166 killed in Mexican plane crash

MEXICO CITY (AP). - A Mexican airline flight with 166 people aboard crashed into a mountainside yesterday en route to Puerto Vallarta and Los Angeles, an airline spokesman said.

A source in the airport commander's office said three helicopters from the federal highway police overflew the mountainside area and found no sign of survivors.

An airline spokesman said flight 940 went down about 275 kilometres northwest of Mexico City.

The plane had been in contact with the Mexico City control centre, and apparently the pilot was making an emergency descent at the time of the crash.

## Gaddafi demands burning of French, English textbooks

TRIPOLI (AP). - Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi has demanded a ritual burning of English and French textbooks at the country's biggest university as part of his campaign to "Arabize" the country.

He also ordered the closure of the English and French Department at Tripoli's Fateh University. The students watched the burning of the books on their campus Sunday, Libyan television reported.

"It came to us as a terrible shock," said a 22-year-old fourth-year English student, who asked not to be identified. "It was so sudden. We couldn't believe it."



**Finance Minister Moda'i rushing out of an Israel Bonds dinner at the Jerusalem Hilton last night to vote on the state budget in the Knesset. Moda'i made a 90 per cent "cut" in his speech to the Bonds gathering, talking for three minutes instead of his scheduled 30. (Rahamin Israeli)**

## NRP comes out in favour of introducing summer time

By ASHER WALLFISH and JUDY SIEGEL  
 Jerusalem Post Reporters

The National Religious Party Knesset faction yesterday voiced support for the introduction of summer time, and Communications Minister Amnon Rubinstein announced that the post office would go over to a summer time schedule towards the end of April.

When the NRP faction convened yesterday, all those who spoke on the question supported summer time because of the possibility that it would save lives on the roads, as well as saving energy.

Even party doyen Yosef Burg, who did his best when he was interior minister to block introduction of summer time, said his only request was that the faction abstain from passing a formal resolution.

No mention was made of a possible increase in Sabbath desecration in public transport and entertainment if the Sabbath ends late.

The unexpected position adopted

in the faction appears to reflect the NRP leaders' attention to popular opinion in the observant sector, which favours summer time despite any problems it might cause.

A Shas source close to Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz told The Jerusalem Post privately last week that Peretz was aware that many of his ultra-Orthodox party's voters wanted summer time. "I personally enjoy it very much, and my wife's only complaint is that the children don't want to go to bed on long summer evenings," the Shas source said.

Peretz is the minister authorized by law to institute summer time, but opposes it on religious grounds. A committee he appointed to study the matter is due to present its report today. Peretz has been accused of setting up the panel in an attempt to block summer time.

Whatever Peretz decides, the country's post office branches will open and close one hour earlier. (Continued on Page 7)

## Bush, Shultz meetings today U.S. unlikely to accept Peres's economic proposals

By WOLF BLITZER  
 Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. - Prime Minister Shimon Peres meets here today with Vice President George Bush, Secretary of State George Shultz and other U.S. officials amid increasing indications that the Reagan administration is unlikely to accept several recently floated Israeli proposals aimed at further bolstering Israel's economy.

Peres, who was due to land in New York last night before flying this morning to Washington, has been pushing for the creation of a new international fund to promote economic development in the Middle

East along the lines of the post-World War II Marshall Plan.

Before taking off from Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday, Peres again warned that the Middle East was headed for hard times, and that unless something was done soon the whole region was liable to be rocked by the political consequences.

But administration officials said that the U.S. was less than enthusiastic about the prime minister's concept. A State Department official noted that Peres has discussed it with the U.S. "only in a very general way thus far."

(Continued on Page 7)

## Most ministers skip debate

# Coalition pushes budget past compliant Knesset

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN and ASHER WALLFISH  
 Post Knesset Staff

The Knesset last night passed the NIS 30.2 billion budget for fiscal 1986 on a show of hands without a vote count, because of the strong support offered by the coalition factions.

The lack of fireworks during the vote and the six-hour sitting that preceded it was attributed to the agreement between Prime Minister Peres and Finance Minister Moda'i, whereby Moda'i agreed to help Histadrut enterprises in trouble and Peres committed the Alignment to supporting the various additional taxes and levies.

The cabinet table was practically empty during most of yesterday's session.

The only coalition member joining the opposition in voting against the budget was Ya'acov Shammai, who heads the Likud faction in the Histadrut. On the Alignment side, Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar and Ora Namir were present but did not vote.

Less than half the members of the House were present for the voting on minority amendments, which lasted over an hour, and for the final vote on the entire budget bill.

Attendance was even sparser until the voting began, when ministers and other MKs began to file in. Among those who showed up for the vote but were not present earlier

were Moda'i, Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir and Deputy Premiers Yitzhak Navon and David Levy. Peres had already left for the U.S.

The budget debate was one of the least eventful for many years, with most of the factions showing a lack of desire to inject drama into what is normally a major event in the parliamentary year.

The only confrontation between the Alignment and the Likud was an argument between Haim Ramon (Alignment) and Yigal Cohen (Likud) about how much investment and settlement there will be in the territories.

Both had broken the rule set down by coalition executive yesterday barring minority amendments by coalition members.

Cohen, speaking for himself and for coalition chairman Haim Kaufman (Likud), proposed a number of amendments which would have increased the budget by NIS18 million, mainly for new settlements over the Green Line.

Ramon proposed that allocations for housing and for investment beyond the Green Line be limited to NIS15m. each.

Several other coalition members also presented minority amendments.

But most of the minority amendments were, of course, presented by the opposition. At 7.40, after three hours of such speeches representatives of four opposition parties rose

one after another to protest the absence of the finance minister, the prime minister, the vice premier, the deputy premiers, the bulk of the coalition members, and even the chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee Avraham Shapira.

Such contempt of the Knesset was unprecedented, the opposition MKs said, and in protest they would not continue with the defence of their amendments. Elazar Granot (Mapam) was first to say this, and he was followed by Ran Cohen (Citizens Rights Movement), Tewfik Toubi (Communists), and Aharon Abuhaitzeira (Tami).

Shapira, when he presented the budget for its second reading yesterday, said it was not the state's duty to help every enterprise in difficulties. A clear distinction should be made between those that were failing when the economic plan took effect last July, and those whose troubles began as a result of the plan, he said.

He deplored the failure of the government to cut its own budget and that of the local authorities, without which the economic plan was doomed to failure. The number of people employed in public services has increased from year to year, reaching a quarterly average of 405,000 in 1985.

Referring to the cabinet's decision on Sunday to allocate \$315m. to aid Solel Boneh and Kupat Holim, Shapira said he had no idea where the money was going to come from.

## Bank of Israel still lacks advisory council

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN  
 Post Knesset Reporter

The new fiscal year begins today with the Bank of Israel still lacking an advisory council. Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i had promised that he would see to the appointment of the committee before April 1.

The problem stems from the inability of the Alignment and the Likud to agree on who should be named chairman following the expiry of the term of MK Avraham Shapira (Agudat Yisrael) a year ago.

On March 5, the Knesset passed a temporary measure authorizing the government to assume the authority of the advisory committee until March 31.

## Benefits in the new tax year

By SHLOMO MAOZ  
 Post Economic Editor

A number of changes in taxation and other financial regulations affecting the average person go into effect today with the start of the new fiscal year:

- The 10 per cent surcharge on advance tax payments by the self-employed or on tax payments deducted at source for occasional work by employees will no longer be collected.
- Compulsory vehicle insurance goes down by 1.3 per cent; vehicle insurance also drops by several percentage points.
- Payments for charges made to Visa and Isracard credit cards will be deducted once a month from bank accounts instead of twice a month.
- Child allowances paid by the National Insurance Institute go up by NIS 1 for each tax credit point, to NIS 34.
- Interest charges on bank overdrafts will be calculated on a quarterly basis, which means a drop in interest rates. The quarterly charges will be kept in force as long as inflation remains low.
- Tax brackets will be adjusted upwards by 2.8 per cent, which means a similar drop in tax rates.

On the debit side:

- Air tickets abroad go up in a seasonal adjustment, with fares to the U.S. rising by \$50 and those to Europe by \$20.
- A one-time levy will be imposed on the combined incomes of retired people that exceed NIS 800 a month, but the details have not yet been finalized.

## Rabin raps State Dep't on eve of Peres talks

TEL AVIV. - Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday criticized the U.S. State Department for advising American Senators not to travel to the Middle East because of Libyan threats.

Such advice was "giving in to terrorism," he told Israeli-based foreign correspondents.

Rabin said one objective of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's threat was to discourage people from travelling to Israel. Rabin suggested the State Department warning was helping that aim.

"How can you say to a senator not to come and say to a tourist to come?" the defence minister asked. "Every senator is very well protected here."

Rabin also said "tricks" and "gimmicks" would not bring about a dialogue now with Jordan and moderate Palestinians.

"I believe the United States, instead of talking so much about the quality of life, [should] do something," Rabin said. "Everybody talks about the refugee camps. Why [is it that] no one contributes some funds to improve the quality of life in the refugee camps?"

"I believe [a dialogue with Jordan] is not tomorrow, and all the tricks, the gimmicks of [the] State Department, Israelis, P.R. etc. will not work," said Rabin. (Reuters, AP)

## Sudan scraps plans for integration with Egypt

KHARTOUM. - Sudan has unilaterally scrapped plans for political and economic integration with neighbouring Egypt, the national news agency Suna reported yesterday.

In Cairo, presidential adviser Osama al-Baz said Egypt had not been informed of Khartoum's move, which came as Sudan has been growing closer to Libya following a change of regime in Sudan nearly a year ago.

But al-Baz, who spoke to reporters after a meeting with President Hosni Mubarak, said: "There is no sense of crisis between us and Sudan. Our relations are normal and good and we could reach an understanding on this or any other issue."

The Sudanese cabinet, in a meeting on Sunday, decided to refer the whole question of integration to the constitutional assembly being elected in polls beginning today, Suna reported.

Ministers also agreed to withdraw support for the institutions, including a joint parliament, set up under the Charter of Integration on the grounds that they were costly and did not serve the interests of the two nations.

Sudan noted that in one year officials of the joint institutions had made 2,000 free trips between Khartoum and Cairo, worsening the position of the already ailing Sudan Airways.

The cabinet decided that the integration charter, signed in 1982 by Mubarak and his now ousted Sudanese counterpart Ja'afar Numeiri, did not reflect the aspirations of the two peoples, Suna said.

However, the economic projects being carried out under the charter are to continue, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Al-Baz said Egypt would await the formation of a new government in Khartoum for a final word on

the integration agreement.

The integration process has been largely in abeyance since Numeiri was ousted, and Sunday's cabinet decision was seen in Khartoum as more symbolic than practical.

The 1976 Egypt-Sudan defence pact, signed by Numeiri and the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat, is still intact. It provides for mutual aid in case of aggression by a "foreign power," meaning Libya.

However Sudan has now signed its own defence agreement with Tripoli, under which Libya has aided Khartoum against rebels in southern Sudan.

Various Sudanese officials, including Defence Minister Uthman Abdullah, Prime Minister Jizuli Dafa'llah and the latter's probable successor after the elections, Sadiq el-Mahdi, have all visited Libya recently, to the concern of both Cairo and Washington. (AFP, Reuters)

## Fears of uprising grow as Sudan nears elections

By RICHARD HALL  
 London Observer Service

Fears are growing in Khartoum that the general elections which start today will be the signal for an uprising in the Sudanese capital.

Col. John Garang, the southern rebel leader, is known to have 800 armed men, organised in groups of 100, hidden inside the city.

His Sudan People's Liberation Movement has widespread support among workers in Khartoum and Omdurman, the sister-city across the Nile. More than a third of the estimated three million population are

southerners. The 800 "urban guerrillas" are equipped with sophisticated weapons.

Political parties contesting the elections are afraid that the regular army may be unable to contain an uprising timed to coincide with the 10-day voting period. Sources close to the Umma Party, led by former prime minister Sadiq el-Mahdi, call the outlook "very grave."

The failure to reach a ceasefire with Garang before the elections has worsened the rift among the army hierarchy. Disorders in Khartoum

could provoke a showdown between the Defence Minister Maj.-Gen. Uthman Abdullah, and the hawkish second-in-command of the military council, Maj.-Gen. Taj el-Din Abdullah Fadl.


Taj el-Din and his supporters still believe that the civil war in the south can be won, even though Sudan is no longer receiving military aid from the U.S.

Some top military men still harbour loyalties to ex-president Ja'afar Numeiri, ousted a year ago this week while on his way home from visiting President Reagan. Any coup

attempt designed to bring back Numeiri - living in exile in Egypt - would bring together more "anti-Arab" support around Garang.

Reuters adds: Some 30 parties are fielding candidates. The voters will elect a constituent assembly of 264 members to replace the transitional military government.

Politicians expect the Umma to hold the largest bloc in the constituent assembly, and Sadat to be next prime minister. The party leader has good relations with Libya and Saudi Arabia, but keeps his distance from Egypt.



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# The weather at major Swissair destinations

	31.3.86	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	14	10	18	Clear
BRUSSELS	14	10	18	Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	18	14	22	Cloudy
CHICAGO	15	9	21	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	17	13	21	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	14	10	18	Clear
GENEVA	14	10	18	Clear
HELSINKI	17	13	21	Cloudy
HONG KONG	17	13	21	Cloudy
JOHANNESBURG	14	10	18	Clear
LONDON	14	10	18	Clear
LYON	14	10	18	Clear
MADRID	14	10	18	Clear
MONTREAL	14	10	18	Clear
NEW YORK	15	9	21	Cloudy
OSLO	17	13	21	Cloudy
PARIS	14	10	18	Clear
RIO DE JANEIRO	20	16	24	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	17	13	21	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	17	13	21	Cloudy
TOKYO	15	9	21	Cloudy
TORONTO	15	9	21	Cloudy
VIENNA	14	10	18	Clear
ZURICH	14	10	18	Clear

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### THE WEATHER

Forecast: Rain.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Max
Jerusalem	97	10-12	13
Golan	98	—	—
Nahariya	98	—	—
Safed	78	6-14	14
Haifa Port	—	—	—
Tiberias	84	11-22	23
Nazareth	78	10-16	17
Ahla	76	10-20	22
Shomron	94	10-14	15
Tel Aviv	84	11-19	19
B-G Akron	82	14-17	19
Jericho	63	14-23	24
Gaza	77	16-19	19
Beersheba	—	—	—
Eilat	40	14-26	26

### SOCIAL & PERSONAL

Knesset Speaker Shlomo Hillel, yesterday received at the Knesset the prime minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Johannes Rau.

American Friends of the University of Haifa, Philadelphia Builders' Mission arrives in Haifa today. The mission will break ground on Thursday, April 3, at 4 p.m. for new student dormitories. Members are meeting with university and government officials. Participants include: Robert Ford, head of mission; Terry Shestak, president of Philadelphia chapter; Iris Cutler, Marlene and Melvin Dion, Shelby Ford, Lawrence Katz, Barbara Levontin, Elaine and Robert Shay, Janice and Jerry Verlin, Eve and Josh Yoffie, Betty and Phil Zimman, Renee Zursky, Joyce Sigal and Oscar Freezman.

### Last round of talks on Taba starts today

The ninth and, according to Israeli sources, last round of talks over Taba and the normalization of relations between Israel and Egypt starts today in Cairo.

The Israeli delegation, led by Foreign Ministry director-general David Kimche, includes legal advisers and Tat-Aluf Dov Dion, head of military liaison to Egypt.

Any remaining differences after this round will be referred back to the cabinet, Israeli sources said.

### Tourist dies at Masada

MASADA (Itim). — A 24-year-old Australian tourist, Steven Townsend, was killed Sunday night when he fell 180 metres from a cliff at the Herodian fortress here to the rocks below.

The tourist and three friends decided Sunday night to sleep at the top of Masada, although it is forbidden to do so. Winds of up to 100 kph tore at his sleeping bag. When he got up to straighten it, it blew away, and he fell from the cliff.

### Scroll of citizenship for Holocaust victims

A commemorative scroll bestowing posthumous citizenship on the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust and honorary citizenship on the Righteous Gentiles was unveiled in the Knesset building yesterday.

## 'Airlines break promise to lower fares'

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
TEL AVIV. — The scheduled airlines are exploiting the new Transport Ministry regulations to raise fares and transfer foreign currency out of the country, the Israel Travel Agents' Association said yesterday.

At a press conference, the association alleged that, instead of lowering their fares, in keeping with their commitment to the ministry, the airlines had raised them.

Until recently, the 10 to 30 per cent commission offered by the airlines to travel agents enabled them to pass along price reductions to travellers. Under the new regula-

## HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

# Shcharansky: threats won't halt trip

By ASHER WALLFISH  
Post Knesset Correspondent  
Former Prisoner of Zion Anatoly Shcharansky, in his first public appearance in over a month, said he would only cancel his planned visit to the U.S. if Soviet authorities allowed his fellow Russian Jews to emigrate.

Shcharansky made his declaration yesterday during a visit to the Knesset at the invitation of Speaker Shlomo Hillel.

Responding to reports that the Soviets would slow Jewish emigration further if Shcharansky visited the U.S., the former Prisoner of Zion laughed and said, "I am willing not to go to the United States if they, in the meantime, free all the Soviet Jews."

Shcharansky said he would not bend to Soviet pressure against his visit, which is scheduled to begin May 5 or 6.

"I am told the Russians have been threatening that if I go to the U.S., the Jews will suffer," he said. "I don't know if this is true. But the Soviets are in the habit of practising extortion. I've grown accustomed to it over the years, and they know very well that I never succumb."

Looking cheerful and rested, and wearing a sky-blue sweater, Shcharansky was accompanied by other former prisoners of Zion, including Yosef Mendeleovich. It was Shcharansky's first visit to the Knesset. Shcharansky urged legislators to "speak in one voice" on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

But, in fact, competition developed among the parties for the former Prisoner of Zion's affections, even during the 30-minute ceremony in Hillel's office. Deputy Speaker Chalka Grossman (Mapam) invited

him to her kibbutz, Evron, in the Western Galilee, while Gula Cohen (Tehiya) insisted that "he will visit Hebron as well."

Shcharansky did not reply to the invitation and smiled at the suggestion that he visit Hebron.

"The link which I felt in my heart during my imprisonment was with the whole of the Jewish people — not with the Alignment or the Likud or the National Religious Party or anybody else," he said. "The Knesset must speak with one voice about the problem of Soviet Jewry. It must tell the latter-day Pharaoh, Mikhail Gorbachev, 'Let my people go.'"

A spokesman for Danish Parliament member Bjorn Elmquist told Shcharansky that Elmquist had met Shcharansky's mother Ida Milgrom in Moscow three weeks ago. "I envy him," Shcharansky replied.



Anatoly Shcharansky in the visitors' gallery of the Knesset yesterday with former Prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendeleovich (left). (Rahamim Israeli)

# Herut again fails to heal rifts; new parley planned

By SARAH HONIG  
Post Political Correspondent  
TEL AVIV. — Another peace parley in Herut ended in a stalemate yesterday. A new gathering of representatives of the warring camps is due in several days.

The only new development yesterday was that a third session of the aborted party convention was proposed. So far, the sides have not been able to agree on conditions for a second convention session.

None of the faction chiefs took part in yesterday's caucus, which was attended only by their representatives. The previous one failed on Friday when it emerged that no one had invited representatives of the Sharon camp. But yesterday Ariel Sharon's men were present.

The Sharon and Levy camps again proposed formulas for the division of power in the party and the immediate rescheduling of its convention. Their proposals had been rejected in the past by the Shamir camp, as they would turn Yitzhak Shamir into a mere figurehead.

MK David Magen, speaking on Sharon's behalf, again demanded that Sharon be made central committee chairman, a title which the Shamir side can't let him have as long as he is allied to Levy.

The one new idea came from MK Yigal Cohen-Or, who is closely associated with Moshe Arens. Cohen-Or suggested that there be two more convention sessions instead of one.

He explained that it is imperative for Herut to put on a convincing show of unity prior to the Labour convention which opens on April 8. Since the thorny issues of putting together the party's new ruling bodies are unlikely to be resolved by then, Herut should devote the second convention session to non-controversial questions. This second session could easily be held prior to the Labour convention, with a third session due once the party's internal quarrels are resolved.

Among the issues he proposes for the second convention session are the ratification of the merger agreement with the Liberal Party and the election of Shamir as party chairman.

Sources in the Levy camp told The Jerusalem Post last night that this is "yet another attempt by the Shamir-Arens camp to win time and postpone decisions on new party bodies, while getting what they are really interested in, which is the affirmation of Shamir's leadership."

## Beit Hanassi ceremony opens Soviet Jewry campaign

By JUDY SIEGEL  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
The beginning of a two-month intensive campaign in Israel and abroad on behalf of Soviet Jewry was announced last night at a ceremony in Beit Hanassi, against the backdrop of charges that the Russian authorities are "trying to put public opinion to sleep."

The Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, which is coordinating the events in Israel, wants Russian Jews to know that other Jews have not forgotten their struggle to emigrate.

On Thursday, a petition expressing solidarity with Ina Begun, wife of Prisoner of Zion Yosef Begun, will be presented for signing outside the Jewish Agency building in Jerusalem. On Shabbat, a race will be held around Mt. Tabor in honour of Russian Jews.

President Herzog, who hosted last night's event, made it clear that Israel has no dispute with the Soviet Union. Nevertheless, "our first concern is for the Jews [there]."

The president began his speech by criticizing the Jerusalem Soviet Jewry Information and Education Centre, which had distributed to reporters a letter taking him to task for comments he allegedly made in a private meeting with Rakah MK Meir Wilner recently.

The president's office received the letter — signed by the centre's chairman, former Prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendeleovich, and by its director, Shmuel Azrahi — from a reporter.

"You should have better manners and treat a Jewish president as you would a non-Jewish president in the outside world," Herzog said. In the letter, the centre protested against Herzog's supposed discussion with Wilner on a possible renewal of relations with the USSR.

Herzog stated that "I don't have to prove my devotion to the cause of Soviet Jewry over the years. I did so quietly and reported to whom I should have reported. As for negotiating diplomatic relations with the Soviets with Wilner, I will leave that to the government and the Foreign Ministry. I didn't emphasize any interest in the renewal of relations. You shouldn't always believe all that is written in the press. You should check first." The story about Herzog's meeting with Wilner was reported last week by Ha'aretz.

Asher Wallfish adds

Johannes Rau, the Social Democratic Party candidate for the West German chancellor, said yesterday in the Knesset he would do everything in his power to help Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union get permission to come to Israel.

Speaking to relatives of refuseniks who were invited to meet him in the Knesset building, Rau said: "For political action on behalf of Soviet Jewry to succeed, it must be conducted with self-restraint, and anything achieved in such action must on no account be exploited for political ends, or presented as a victory."

## Hassid convicted of bribing IDF officers

TEL AVIV (Itim). — A 46-year-old Vizhnitz Hassid from Bnei Brak was convicted in the district court here yesterday of bribing two soldiers at the IDF induction centre in Tel Hashomer, so that they would arrange draft exemptions for yeshiva students. The man, Nahum Appel, was given a six-months suspended sentence.

In passing sentence, Judge Eliahu Matza noted that Appel, who had done his regular army service and still does reserve duty, accompanied many yeshiva students to the induction centre to help them out with the procedures. From his frequent visits there, Appel became well known and "all doors there were open to him," the judge said.

In 1979 Appel gave an unlinked, interest-free loan of IL5,000 to Tamar Targi, and in 1980 he arranged for a loan on similar terms of IL10,000 to Sima Benvenisti. They gave Appel information about the medical files of yeshiva students requesting exemptions, and arranged for their cases to pass quickly through the IDF medical boards. The judge ruled that these loans should be viewed as bribes.

## Austrian governors 'reject interference' over Waldheim

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter and agencies  
VIENNA (AP). — Provincial governors of the party backing Kurt Waldheim for president issued a vehement protest yesterday against "vile interference from outside" in Austria's domestic affairs.

The statement was seen as criticizing the World Jewish Congress, although the governors did not identify it by name. Their faction, the People's Party, has used similar language to criticize the WJC in the past.

"Austrians forcefully reject the vile interference from outside in the Austrian electoral race," said the statement. "Dr. Kurt Waldheim has convincingly and impressively refuted all accusations unfairly made against him."

The WJC has publicized evidence it says proves Waldheim hid a Nazi past that included wartime atrocities against partisans in the Balkans. Waldheim, a front-runner in the presidential race, has denied wrongdoing.

Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal also criticized the WJC yesterday, saying Austrian Jews feared its allegations would produce an anti-Semitic backlash.

In Haifa, John Mendelsohn, assistant chief of the Modern Military Branch of the U.S. National Archives, said yesterday that Waldheim did not necessarily interrogate prisoners personally.

Despite the former UN secretary-general's designation in the German army 18-03, or "intelligence officer in charge of personal interrogation," Mendelsohn said "this does not signify that he personally interrogated or tortured prisoners. It could mean he edited reports."

Mendelsohn said some 4,000 to 6,000 copies of the Central Register of War Crimes and Security Suspects had been printed and distributed over the years and the register was open to researchers. But, he noted, "no researcher looked for Waldheim's name."

Mendelsohn is to give two lectures on the Holocaust at Haifa University.

## Diamond heist in Tel Aviv

By YORAM GAZIT  
For The Jerusalem Post  
TEL AVIV. — Robbers brandishing firearms got away with tens of thousands of dollars worth of diamonds from a diamond polishing workshop in southern Tel Aviv last night.

Workers leaving the plant were ambushed by two masked men armed with machineguns, who forced them to open the safe.

The thieves then shackled them with plastic military handcuffs and tied them to the polishing machines.

The robbers collected unpolished diamonds and escaped in a waiting car.

## Police want to drop assault probe of Sharon

The police have recommended that an investigation of Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon for allegedly striking an Arab trespasser be closed — for lack of evidence.

The plaintiff, Faisal Yunis, had complained that Sharon struck him after Yunis wandered by accident into the minister's ranch in the Negev in October 1984.

Investigators established that Yunis and a companion drove onto Sharon's property and fired shots from a hunting rifle. Sharon and an agent of the General Security Services disarmed the trespassers.

Yunis claimed he was then struck, but Sharon and the GSS agent denied it. Police were also dubious about Yunis's complaint since he took 10 months to file it.

The recommendation now goes to the police inspector-general. (Itim)

## Sharir to visit Greece

HAIFA (Itim). — Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir will travel to Greece next month in what ministry officials say is the first official visit by an Israeli minister to that country since the 1950s.

Sharir, who is going at the invitation of the Greek government, will attend a conference on package tour to Israel, Greece and Egypt, and will discuss joint marketing of such tours in the U.S. and Western Europe.

## Police sure Demjanjuk is their man

By BARBARA AMOUYAL  
For the Jerusalem Post  
Israeli prosecutors have lined up 13 witnesses from here and abroad to testify against John Demjanjuk, the man accused of helping to gas hundreds of thousands of Jews at the Treblinka concentration camp. But police concede they still face obstacles in pressing their case.

Police Inspector-General David Kraus said the witnesses may have been influenced by recent reports that Demjanjuk is the victim of mistaken identity. "Many of these reports may be sub judice," Kraus said.

Another problem is relying on the memory of witnesses, since many of them filed their affidavits 10 years ago.

Despite these difficulties, Kraus said police have no doubt that the man they have been holding in Ramle Prison for 33 days since he was extradited from the U.S. is indeed "Ivan the Terrible." Kraus dismissed the reports of mistaken identity appearing in the press, attributing them to "slick public relations and special interest efforts."

## Orthodox factions seen chasing same votes as Kahane

By ASHER WALLFISH  
Post Knesset Correspondent  
The Orthodox factions' concern about proposed legislation against racism does not stem from any apprehension about Judaism being equated with racism, but simply from their competition with Kahane for the support of the observant voter, a senior coalition source in the Knesset told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

The source said: "Kach activists have infiltrated into most of the Orthodox parties and into the major Hassidic yeshivot and communities. When the next election day comes around and the Admorim [Hassidic rabbis] tell their adherents which way to vote, their instructions will no longer be carried out to the letter."

The source lives close to Bnei Brak.

Stressing that the original legislative proposal outlawing racism was better than the Orthodox factions' new proposal outlawing offence to minorities, the source said that Orthodox representatives on the coalition executive had shown a superficial grasp of legislation designed to block Kach and its leader, MK Meir Kahane.

Had it not been for Justice Minister Moshe Nissim's entreaty to the Orthodox factions to get the advice of a lawyer before criticizing the government proposal, the source said, the coalition executive would still have been going round in circles with the Orthodox factions.

## Posters urge separate Reform cemeteries

By HAIM SHAPIRO  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
Wall posters appearing recently in Jerusalem's Mea She'arim quarter have called for separate cemeteries for Reform Jews. "as is customary elsewhere in the world."

The posters are part of a continuing battle by the ultra-Orthodox Eda Haredit against the recent interment of Reform rabbi Morton Berman on the Mount of Olives. Before the unweaving of Berman's tombstone, visitors discovered that cement blocks had been placed around the grave, to "separate it from the graves of the righteous," in the words of an earlier poster.

The blocks were removed by the burial society.

Hemdat, the Council for Cultural, Religious and Scientific Freedom, has called on the police to interrogate a group of ultra-Orthodox Jews photographed near the grave. Hemdat claims they are members of the rabbinical court of the Eda Haredit.

But according to Hemdat, the police are afraid to investigate the matter. "The Eda Haredit won't respond to a police invitation to come in for questioning, and if we go to Mea She'arim there will be a riot," a spokesman for Hemdat quoted a police official as saying.

## Police press for better arms store security

By BARBARA AMOUYAL  
Police Inspector-General David Kraus met recently with IDF Chief of General Staff Rav-Aluf Moshe Levy to discuss security measures at IDF weapons stores, in light of the increasing number of IDF weapons stolen or purchased by terror groups for use inside Israel.

Kraus told reporters yesterday that a significantly larger number of such groups had been discovered in the past year.

Abu Tayeb, commander of the PLO's Force 17, recently stated in an

interview on American television that it was becoming easier to secure "arms for struggle within the pre-1967 boundaries of occupied Palestine." He contended that it made more sense logistically to secure weapons inside Israel than to run the risk of smuggling them from abroad.

Police have recently uncovered several terrorist groups operating inside the Green Line, Kraus added. He said the groups, discovered in Kafir Kasim and two northern villages, had been engaged in weapons trading, planting explosive devices, and stone throwing.

On the first anniversary of the passing of our beloved

**Dr. MEIR MELENKI** ז"ל  
we will conduct a graveside memorial service at  
the Holon cemetery at 12 noon on Friday,  
24 Adar B, 5746 — April 4, 1986.  
We will meet at the cemetery entrance at 11.50 a.m.

The Family

On the second anniversary of the passing of our dear  
**SONIA HARNICK** ז"ל  
widow of Dr. Moshe Harnick ז"ל  
we shall visit her grave and honour her memory,  
on Friday April 4, 1986 at 1:00 p.m.,  
at the Or Akiva cemetery.

The Family

We share the grief of our member, Paul,  
on the death of his father  
**JOHN ALAN STEVENS**  
in London.  
Kibbutz Beit Alpha

We announce the untimely passing of our dearly beloved  
**MIRIAM ECKERLING**  
The funeral will take place in Jerusalem,  
tomorrow, Wednesday April 2, 1986 (22 Adar B, 5746).  
For details of funeral arrangements please call:  
02-667938, 234723, 225066, 631430, 660294.

The children:  
Yehuda Eckerling  
Amir and Ruthy Eckerling  
Chani and Lenny Salesbury

The grandchildren:  
Dan and Jonathan  
and the Eckerling, Solomon and  
Lifshitz families

Shiva at the deceased's home, 19 Rehov Hovevei Zion, Jerusalem.

Tel Aviv University, the Sackler Medical Faculty  
honour the memory of  
**FRIDA METGER**  
of Neve Aviv  
who died on March 25, 1986 (14 Adar B, 5746)  
and bequeathed her body to science.

With deep sorrow we mourn the death of my beloved  
husband, our father and grandfather  
**JACOB GREENFEST** ז"ל  
on March 29, 1986. The funeral took place in Jerusalem  
on March 30.  
Shiva is at 15 Herzog Street, Jerusalem.

Hanna Greenfest  
Leo and Helene  
Ira and Fran  
and grandchildren

On the thirtieth day after the passing of  
my mother, our grandmother  
**RAJA SCHIFF** ז"ל  
the memorial service and tombstone unveiling will take place  
on Wednesday, April 2, 1986 (22 Adar B, 5746) at 4:30 p.m.  
at the Givat Shaul cemetery, Jerusalem.  
We shall meet at her son's home at 4:00 p.m.

**KEREN KAYEMETH LEISRAEL**  
welcomes  
the National Mission of the  
Jewish National Fund of Canada  
for its Annual Meeting and Dedication  
of the "Redeemers of Jerusalem Project"



## Many old-age homes 'not fit for the elderly'

By TSIPPI KUPER

For The Jerusalem Post

Some old-age homes with infirm people are only staffed by a maintenance man at night, according to Shmuel Friedman, head of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministry's department for the elderly. "The only phone number the man has is that of the home's manager, who may be an hour's drive away," Friedman said in an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*.

Many homes take insufficient precautions and would be death-traps if a fire broke out. Others are unsuitable for elderly people — such as a home on the third floor of an apartment building with no lift, said Friedman.

Eight court cases are being heard against old-age homes charged with failing to maintain minimal standards to ensure their residents' well-being, Friedman said, and the ministry is considering charges against another four or five.

The courts, however, are unlikely to order the homes to close even if conditions warrant it, as there is nowhere to send the residents, he added.

The problems are mainly in private homes. Out of the 20 sub-standard old-age homes that were closed in the past two years, 19 were privately run, said Friedman.

New regulations on running old-age homes are due to be signed by Labour and Social Affairs Minister Moshe Katsav within a few days.

They will require homes with some infirm residents to build a special unit for them.

The new regulations will demand more rigid physical specifications, providing easy access to beds and other amenities, and more stringent manpower requirements, with three nurses and helpers for every 10 infirm residents.

The new regulations will also require new homes with over 100 beds to be able to open a geriatric unit. "This would reduce the need for moving residents to geriatric hospitals if their condition deteriorates," said Friedman.

The present regulations, which date from 1965, do not require special conditions for the infirm and call for one worker for every 10 residents.

They will necessitate hiring hundreds more workers in the private homes, Friedman said. But he expects problems in enforcing the new regulations.

With only 3.5 supervisors to oversee the country's 100 homes, it is almost impossible to catch offenders, Friedman said.

Some 9,000 people currently reside in old-age homes, and the ministry has a waiting list of over 500 for public homes. Almost half of the country's homes are privately owned, serving some 2,000 people — 23 per cent of the homes' residents. Most of the other homes are run by public non-profit organizations.

## Petrol firms still owe telethon pledges

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Only a fraction of the NIS 75,000 pledged to the telethon for the aged on December 10 by Energy Minister Moshe Shaleh on behalf of the nation's petroleum companies has been paid, the Public Council for the Aged said yesterday.

The council, under whose auspices the telethon was conducted, said at a news conference that it had received only NIS 10,000 from the petroleum companies.

However, both Shulamit Shamir, chairwoman of the Public Council, and Judge Zvi Berenson, chairman of the special committee for disbursing the funds, were quick to shift any blame from Shaleh himself. It was not a personal pledge, they said.

On the whole, however, the fundraiser was a success. Cash pledges

to the telethon totalled NIS 2 million, but the actual sum collected from donors who sent in contributions or paid them into bank accounts opened across the country by the council came to NIS 2.25m.

Applications for financial assistance came from 275 organizations for a total of 700 projects, but only 118 of the applicants won grants, which were for between NIS 5,000 and NIS 30,000. To qualify for a grant, a project must be of a continuing nature and benefit a large number of people. It cannot be the recipient of government funds. The bulk of the funds were used to pay for security devices such as beepers, medical equipment and dental treatment. Funds were also provided for laundry clubs.

The telethon was the first campaign undertaken by the council.

## Registration to open for private kindergartens

TEL AVIV. — Registration for private kindergartens — which accept children between two and four years of age — is to open tomorrow, representatives of the Association of Private Kindergartens announced at a press conference here yesterday.

Early registration, explained association chairman Erna Schreiber, assures parents that their children will have a place in the desired kindergarten, and also helps kindergarten teachers plan the year's activities.

## Most soldiers started smoking before induction

TEL AVIV. — Most soldiers who smoke began doing so before their induction, Medical Corps Commander Tat-Aluf Moshe Revah said yesterday.

Revah's report was recently presented to Alignment MK Yitzhak Artzi, who had submitted a parliamentary question on the subject. It said that 75 per cent of the men who smoke by the time of their discharge, and 63 per cent of the women, started smoking before they entered the army.



Chief Chaplain Aluf Gad Navon (front) lends a hand in the production of hand-baked 'shamra' matza at Kfar Habad. (IDF Spokesman)

## Volunteers still welcome at majority of kibbutzim

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The recent decision by Deganya Alef and some other kibbutzim to close their doors to volunteers from abroad does not appear to represent a uniform trend within the kibbutz movement.

Although views varied widely among kibbutzniks approached by *The Jerusalem Post*, with some contending that volunteers do more harm than good, most were in favour of continuing to accept the transient workers.

For example, Yossi Solomin, a member of Kibbutz Sha'ar Ha'ama near Haifa, expressed surprise and shock at what he described as Deganya's "ostrich-like attitude."

Deganya decided to stop taking foreign volunteers because of the "negative influence" they were having on the kibbutz children, and the rise in intermarriages and relationships between Jews and gentiles.

The kibbutz was particularly concerned about the permissive attitudes of the volunteers, who tend to "live for today" and thus encourage youngsters to take less seriously their responsibilities to the kibbutz and the state.

Solomin argued that, handled properly, the volunteers are more likely to be influenced by kibbutz members and their ideologies than the other way round.

He cited several examples on his own kibbutz of volunteers who had become so enamoured of the way of life that they had decided to stay. They had married and settled on the kibbutz, thereby enhancing the community, rather than weakening it.

"Unfortunately there are conservative groups on some kibbutzim who regard volunteers as drug dealers or alcoholics. This may be true in a few cases but certainly not all, and if there is a problem then we have ways of dealing with it," Solomin said.

His views were echoed by several members of Kibbutz Ginossar on the shores of the Kinneret opposite De-

ganya. Others, though, took a more pragmatic stance.

"The volunteers are a cheap labour force for settlements in general and that is the single most important factor," a Ginossar member said. "As long as there is a need, there will be volunteers."

There has been a sharp drop in the number of volunteers on kibbutzim and moshavim recently. But Shlomo Leshem, the United Kibbutz Movement's spokesman, said this was due to economic rather than ideological considerations.

He said nearly 40 per cent of the 25,000 volunteers who visit Israel annually come on an individual basis. Priority in placing volunteers in settlements, however, is given to groups from organizations, Israeli and foreign, with which the movements have established ties.

In times of economic stringency, it is natural that there should be less demand for casual workers from abroad, Leshem said.

There had also been complaints from kibbutzim about the quality of volunteers lately. Many had asked the movement not to send them temporary workers from England and some other Western European countries because of "drinking problems."

Nevertheless, he stressed that the United Kibbutz Movement had no intention of stopping to accept overseas volunteers, at least not in the foreseeable future.

Leshem noted that there had always been a debate over the value of volunteers. Some kibbutzim had never accepted them for a wide variety of reasons, practical, ideological, and economic.

These kibbutzim represented a minority attitude, and Deganya's decision was unlikely to start a chain reaction. "From what I understand, Deganya is still taking in temporary workers from organizations," he said.

"The kibbutz is a pluralistic society and will remain so," Leshem concluded.

## Tsur: S. Africa's Jews looking first to Australia

By MOSHE KOHN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

"In our discussions on aliyah," Absorption Minister Ya'acov Tsur said yesterday, "we are accustomed to speaking in terms of 'Jews of the lands of distress' on the one hand, and 'Jews of the affluent countries' on the other. Where South Africa is concerned, we have to gear ourselves to a new concept: affluent Jews in distress."

Tsur was speaking at a news conference the day after his return from a nine-day visit to South Africa as guest of the South African Zionist Federation to discuss aliyah problems with Zionist leaders and prospective olim.

South African Jews see no long-range future for themselves there, and are seeking alternatives, he said. "This is a community on the move." But, like non-Jewish white South Africans, the Jews — including Zionists — are seeking the alternative in Australia first of all, and also in Canada and the U.S.

"I told them," Tsur said, "that I did not come to compete with Australia in offering attractions. There is no way we can do that. But I told them that Israel is ready to help those who want to come to Israel."

During his visit, he said, he spoke to about 3,000 people in a variety of meetings, including an all-day seminar of 300 people. He presented the programme announced here some

weeks ago offering various special privileges to South African Jews coming on aliyah.

These privileges include the possibility of buying homes on much easier terms than normally available to newcomers from the West, to help the South Africans make up for the drastic drop in the value of the rand; arrangements for high-school children to qualify for *bagrut* (matriculation) here by completing their studies and examinations according to South African standards; easing credit transfers for university students; making loans easily available to small businessmen and artisans wishing to continue their pursuits here; and establishing special settlements or neighbourhoods for groups of South African Jews wishing to settle as groups. Additional plans are being worked out.

Tsur said that, according to the number of people who have come from South Africa so far this year, and the number of those registered to come, some 600 people will immigrate — double last year's figure. He noted that about 16,000 South African Jews are living in Israel.

Perhaps Israel's place in the South African Jewish situation today is best summed up in a poignant story he told about his trip back to Israel on Saturday night. Five families of olim were abroad the plane. One of the women said: "I know it's all over for the Jews in South Africa. But something has died in me."



Deborah Lewin, editor of "At" dies at 52

Deborah Lewin, 52, one of Israel's leading food and fashion writers, and editor of *At*, a monthly magazine for women, died after a long illness at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital on Sunday. She was buried at the Holon cemetery yesterday afternoon.

Lewin, who was born in Tel Aviv, was the daughter of a South African immigrant and a fifth-generation sabra. She grew up and was educated in Jerusalem, served in the Air Force, and worked for many years as El Al spokeswoman. She started her journalistic career as a fashion writer for *At* in 1967 and became the magazine's editor four years ago. She also contributed to other publications including *The Jerusalem Post*.

She is survived by her brother, Judge Yosef Lewin, of Beersheba, and his family. (A.Z.)

## Heine still troubles Israelis, Germans

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Heinrich Heine, the celebrated 19th century German-Jewish romantic poet, would have had no difficulty reacting to Tel Aviv's joining his native city, Düsseldorf, in refusing to honour his memory by calling something in his name.

His famous poem "Disputation," in which a monk and a rabbi zealously argue about the superiority of their respective religions before the king, ends with the queen's verdict: "They both stink."

Heine, with his acid wit, would no doubt have enjoyed quoting himself to the two cities.

Haifa, on the other hand, named a Heinrich Heine Square, near Central Carmel, over 30 years ago. And just over two years ago, after Düsseldorf University refused to adopt Heine's name, Haifa called a DM1 million building donated by Düsseldorf to the Kiryat Haifa suburb the Heinrich Heine Community Centre.

In Tel Aviv, Heine ran up against the religious parties when Mayor Shlomo Lahat recently proposed naming a street after him. They stymied the move by citing a little-known by-law that forbids naming streets after converted Jews. But the Tel Aviv Municipality spokesman told *The Jerusalem Post* that Lahat had not thrown in the towel on the issue.

Heine, who was indifferent to all



Heinrich Heine

religion, converted to Christianity in 1825, or as the encyclopedias put it, "nominally embraced Christianity," in order to qualify as a lawyer at the University of Göttingen.

Born to a poor Jewish family in 1797, Heine was set up in business by a rich uncle, but soon failed. His uncle then paid for his studies in Bonn and in Göttingen. But he never practised law, instead becoming the writer of lyrics and ballads recognized as among the finest in world literature.

In 1831 he left for Paris, seeing himself as a "son of the French Revolution," and four years later his works were banned in Germany.

They were banned again, with a full public burning, by the Nazis a century later. But even the Nazis could not suppress "Lorelei," one of his many poems set to music by Schubert, Brahms and Schumann, which had become part of German lore. They simply ascribed it to "an unknown author."

In Düsseldorf, Heine was not honoured because he was not "German enough," and in Tel Aviv because he was not "Jewish enough."

Yet he himself regretted his conversion. He insisted that it was impossible to opt out of Judaism, and that there was therefore no question of his "coming back" to it. At the same time, he suffered the pains of a divided Germany no less than the greatest patriot.

Perhaps the response to Heine is best summed up by the soul-searching of late Haifa mayor Abba Khushy, who named Heinrich Heine Square. At that time all things German were still a very sensitive issue in Israel, and the name "Heinrich" is very German indeed. The mayor consulted Dr. Reuben Hecht, chairman of the Dagon silo company and a connoisseur of art and literature, and asked whether "Chaim Heine" would do. Hecht said that it would not, and so Haifa has its Heinrich Heine Square and Community Centre. And, as it has no by-law about converted Jews, it also has a Disraeli Street.

## Fifty productions being offered from May 24 to June 15

## Basel and Sadler's Wells ballet at Israel Festival

By MARSHA POMERANTZ

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Three productions of works by playwright Federico Garcia Lorca, 50 years after his death in the Spanish Civil War, will be one focus of this year's Israel Festival, Jerusalem, to be held from May 24 to June 15. Tickets go on sale this Sunday at the Jerusalem Theatre and agencies.

According to artistic director Oded Kotler and general manager Yishai Amrami, who announced the programme at a press conference yesterday, the festival will also feature modern Polish theatre, several productions based on works by

the West German playwright Franz Xavier Kroetz, vocal and chamber music from Germany, France and Argentina, the post-modern dance company of Bill T. Jones and Arnie Zane (U.S.), the Basel Ballet, and the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet, in addition to new programmes by Israeli theatre, dance and music groups. Fifty different productions are being offered.

Early ticket sales will offer a buy-three-get-one-free deal, in which the prices of each ticket will range from NIS 15 to NIS 37, depending on the production.

This year's budget of \$770,000 is smaller than in the past, Amrami

explained, partly because of the need to pay off deficits amounting to \$600,000 for the years 1982-86. About half of the income is expected to be from box office, with other funding from the Jerusalem Foundation, the Education, Foreign and Tourism Ministries, the Jewish Agency, and the Jerusalem Municipality.

The major new development in financing, and what makes the small budget possible, is the increased cooperation with independent impresarios who in some cases foot the entire bill, and with such institutions as the Habimah Theatre. The joint ventures, which include outside

financing, will also be presented in Tel Aviv.

For the first time the festival will be largely concentrated in the Jerusalem Theatre, which has recently added three new performance spaces to its major auditorium. Street events will be clustered in the area surrounding the theatre complex.

As in the past, package deals for performances and sightseeing will be offered to tourists, and subsidized housing arrangements will be available to residents of development towns through Omani La'am (Art for the People) and the Community Centre Corporation.

## Poll finds public think less of IDF's senior command

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A survey by Tel Aviv University has found that the public thinks less of the IDF senior command today than it did in the past.

The poll, which questioned 1,172 Jewish adults, found that 53 per cent believed officers used criteria other than the merit of a situation in making a decision, and took into account such things as personal and organizational factors.

Politicians' decisions were, by comparison, more suspect, with only one-third of the respondents saying they believed political leaders made choices on the basis of merit alone. However, 88 per cent of those surveyed said the public should support the government during a crisis, even if they do not agree with its actions.

Aluf (Res.) Aharon Yariv, the head of the university's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, which financed the survey, said the findings indicate "an erosion" in the senior command's stature. "In the past, we had a feeling that military decisions were based only on the merits of the case," said Yariv, a former chief of Military Intelligence.

The survey also found that the public was equally divided between those who favoured negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation if it recognizes Israel and renounces terror, and those who opposed talks under any circumstances.

Talks with a moderate PLO were

favoured by 60 per cent of second-generation sabras surveyed, by 53 per cent of all European immigrants and their children, and by 45 per cent of all Oriental Jews and their children.

The more secular a person is the more ready he is for such negotiations, the survey showed. Thirty-one per cent of those who identified themselves as Orthodox would agree to such talks, compared with 51 per cent of the respondents who identified themselves as "traditional" and 54 per cent who said they were non-observant.

Close to 40 per cent of all Likud supporters agree to talks with a moderate PLO, compared with two-thirds of the Alignment supporters.

In general, Israelis expressed confidence in the country's ability to defend itself. Seventy-five per cent said it could successfully confront a combined attack by all Arab states, 94 per cent were sure it could defeat Syria, and 92 per cent believed Israel could weather a stepped-up terror campaign.

## CORRECTION

Because of a printing error in yesterday's edition, the schedule of performances by the Gary Burton Quintet was incomplete. The quintet is to perform at the Haifa Auditorium tomorrow at 8:30 p.m.; at Kibbutz Ayalot Hashahar on Thursday, April 3, at 8:30 p.m.; and at Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium on Friday, April 4, at 2:30 p.m.

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## Woman dies in Hampton Court fire

LONDON. — A raging fire yesterday gutted a wing of Hampton Court palace, a favourite country home of past kings and queens, damaging priceless royal art treasures. A body believed to be the 86-year-old widow of a top British general was found, police and fire officials said.

Seven or eight elderly widows in their dressing gowns were led from apartments on the top floor of the palace's south wing before the roof collapsed into galleries filled with art works, said Toby Jessel, a Conservative party lawmaker who represents the district 30 kilometres from central London.

In the wreckage firemen found the body of Lady Gale, widow of General Sir Richard Gale, commander of a division which led the 1944 Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe, police said.

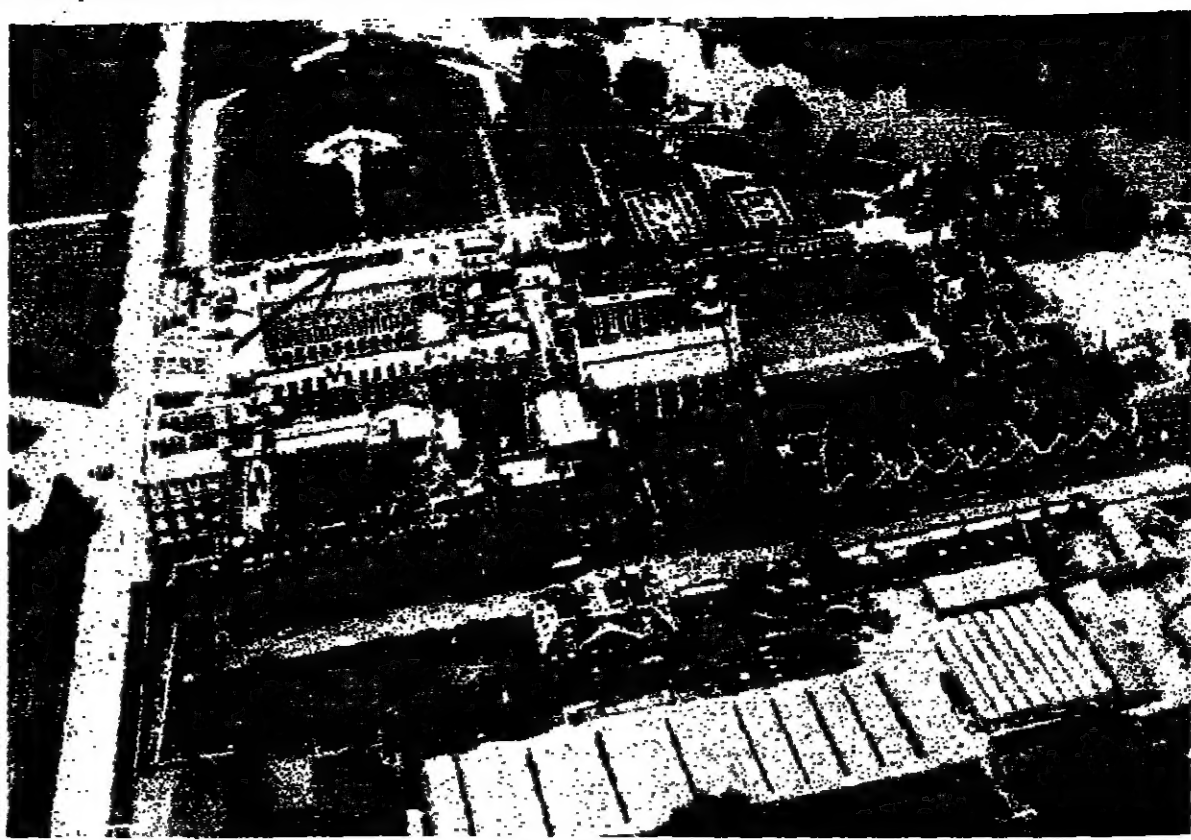
More than 120 firemen brought the blaze at the 16th-century palace on the banks of the Thames under control four hours after it was first spotted, a fire brigade spokesman said.

But later smoke was still billowing from the palace, one of Britain's top tourist attractions.

Firemen managed to keep the blaze from spreading to other wings of the massive palace, which is built around several inner courtyards. Many people who live in palace apartments were away for Easter.

Queen Elizabeth II, accompanied by Prince Charles and Princess Margaret, later visited the palace to inspect the damage.

Buckingham Palace said the fire destroyed two paintings in the south wing, which was rebuilt by the 17th-century architect Christopher Wren, and many other paintings and works of art were damaged. (AP/Reuters).



Hampton Court palace, which caught fire yesterday.

(AFP telephoto)

## Senate finds bugs in SDI research

WASHINGTON (AP). — U.S. scientists have not got very far in making President Reagan's dream of a high-tech shield against nuclear attack a reality, a Senate report says.

Rather, research on the Strategic Defence Initiative over the past three years has highlighted the nearly insurmountable problems of basing a comprehensive anti-missile system in space, the study says.

"While some significant progress has been achieved in each of the five major programmes of the Strategic Defence Initiative, none of it could be described as amazing," said the report, which was circulated on Capitol Hill last week. A declassified version was released Sunday.

Reagan, when he announced the programme, in a televised speech in March 1983, said it could "set us free from the prison of nuclear weapons" by late in this century or early in the next by erecting an impenetrable shield against attack.

The Senate report, however, said, "Interviews with key SDI scientists involved in the research revealed that there have been no major breakthroughs which make a mid-to-late-1990s deployment of comprehensive missile defences more feasible than it was three years ago."

"So far, SDI has moved ahead by inches. We still have miles to go,"

the report said.

Among the key problems which research has not solved to date are protecting satellite components of the system from attack, distinguishing real warheads from hundreds of thousands of decoys expected in a nuclear barrage and bringing the cost of launching and maintaining such a system to an affordable level.

"Congress should maintain a certain degree of scepticism over claims of tremendous advances in SDI research" while weighing the administration's 1987 budget request for \$4.8 billion to fund the programme, popularly known as "Star Wars," it said.

## Marcos says he's still president

HONOLULU (AP). — Former Philippines president Ferdinand Marcos said Sunday that he is still the legal head of state of the Philippines.

He told journalists that the new government of President Corason Aquino is "a plain and simple dictatorship."

The ousted leader was replying, for the first time since he left Manila on February 25, to questions put to him by journalists at his residence in Hawaii after he had attended an Easter Church service.

Asked if he still looked on himself as president, he replied "of course."

Marcos said that since his arrival here, he had written out his version of recent events, but his lawyer has advised him not to reveal the contents.

He said that he was resting, eating well and had put on one kilo since his arrival. He was not planning to leave Hawaii in the near future.

In Manila, politicians loyal to Marcos decided yesterday to defy Aquino and convene the parliament she abolished after taking power last month.

Leaders of the New Society Movement, created by Marcos in 1978, said they would also challenge in the Supreme Court the validity of a new constitution proclaimed by Aquino. (AP/Reuters)

## Protesters tear-gassed at German nuclear site

WACKERSDORF, West Germany (Reuters). — Police yesterday turned water-jets laced with tear gas on anti-nuclear demonstrators at the planned site of West Germany's first nuclear reprocessing plant.

A police spokesman said water cannons were trained on protesters throwing missiles over the three-metre high, 5.4km-long security fence around the Wackersdorf site near the border with Czechoslovakia.

Police deployed 3,000 men in riot gear, 40 water-cannon trucks and 300 other vehicles at and around the construction site after clashes Sunday in which 280 demonstrators were briefly detained.

Organizers said over 100,000 people had come by bus, car and special train from all over the country in a bid to stop the project, which they say poses grave health and environmental hazards. Police put the number at 30,000.

Federal Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann warned ahead of the rally that militants would spark violence. Police said 68 protesters were detained earlier yesterday on suspicion of damaging police vehicles and cutting the security fence.

Bolt-cutters, crowbars and other heavy tools were seized. The tense situation at Wackersdorf, scene of repeated clashes since loggers began clearing the site late last year, was in sharp contrast to peaceful Easter marches in other parts of West Germany.

Central organizers said over 300,000 peace campaigners marched in Stuttgart, Frankfurt and the main cities of the industrial Ruhr district despite cold, blustery weather.

At the Wackersdorf site, police also searched the information office of the organizers and broke up log barricades they had erected.

## SPORTS

### Mersey might

LONDON (AP). — Everton moved a step closer to retaining the English soccer championship yesterday by drawing 0-0 with title-rivals Manchester United at Old Trafford.

Although the result meant that the defending champion's Merseyside neighbours, Liverpool, hit the top of the First Division on goal difference, after beating Manchester City 2-0 before a capacity home crowd, Everton have a game in hand.

Manchester United, runaway league leader back in November, badly needed to beat Everton to revive their flagging hopes of the title. After a scrappy anonymous first half in which both sides felt the tension of the big occasion, United had three clear chances to win the match. Substitute Frank Stapleton brought a tremendous save out of Everton's reserve goalkeeper Bobby Mimms, while Mark Hughes and Gordon Strachan both missed chances they would probably have buried on a less important occasion. Everton finished stronger, however, and Graeme Sharp's header looked goalbound until Mark Higgins, the Manchester centerback, got in the way to block it.

Steve McMahon was the scorer of both Liverpool goals in the other Merseyside-Manchester match. The classy midfielder rounded off Liverpool's early pressure by netting in the 32nd minute and wrapped up victory over Manchester City by finishing off Craig Johnston's neat approach play on the hour.

In the day's big upset, Chelsea were crushed 6-0 by West London neighbours Queens Park Rangers to complete a miserable brace of Easter defeats for John Holtzman's side. Before the busy Easter programme, Chelsea, with games in hand on the other championship contenders, was considered a good outside bet for the title.

But a 0-4 home defeat by West Ham on Saturday followed by yesterday's even more humiliating hammering by mid-table Rangers severely jolted confidence in the Chelsea camp.

After yesterday's games, Liverpool and Everton both have 70 points, with Liverpool having played 36 matches, one more than Everton. Manchester United stay in third place on 65 points from 35 matches. Then come Chelsea on 62 points from 33 games followed by West Ham, who are emerging as a late challenger in the run-in to the title.

After picking up two wins in 48 hours, West Ham had 60 points, 10 behind Everton but with four games in hand.

Towards the bottom of the table, Aston Villa and Ipswich Town both gained valuable 1-4 home wins against other sides on the fringe of the relegation zone. Villa beat Leicester, while Ipswich downed Coventry. But Birmingham's plight deepened when they were thumped 3-0 by Nottingham Forest.

Becker's wild card comes up trumps

CHICAGO (Reuters). — Boris Becker broke out of his slump and snapped Ivan Lendl's winning streak at the same time as he scored a straight-set victory to claim the Chicago Grand Prix men's singles title.

Becker, the reigning Wimbledon champion, defeated top-seeded Lendl 7-6 (7-5), 6-3 to collect his first championship of the year.

This is Lendl's first defeat in 29 matches dating back to December's Australian open. After the match Lendl complained of knee pains.

Becker entered this tournament at the last minute, on a wild card berth after a shock first-round loss to unheralded Australian Broderick Dyke in Brussels last week.

The 17-year-old West German made up for that showing here, vanquishing second seed Jimmy Connors in a grilling three-set semifinal before sweeping Lendl in the final.

"I'm playing my best since Wimbledon. To beat Connors and then to wake up and beat Lendl! That's special!" Becker said.

In the doubles Ken Flach and Robert Seguso, of the U.S. best card berth after a shock first-round loss to unheralded Australian Broderick Dyke in Brussels last week.

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## Japanese prince is latest target of terror rockets

TOKYO (Reuters). — Left-wing radicals yesterday fired home-made rockets from a van outside Crown Prince Akihito's residence and a nearby guest house to be used in the May Tokyo summit, but one failed to explode and another was thwarted by a net, police said.

It was the latest in a series of attacks in Japanese cities.

Before the attack the police had thrown a net over the parked van which they thought looked suspicious. It blocked one rocket which dropped harmlessly about 20 to 30 metres away.

Police said they found another rocket unexploded inside the gardens adjoining the Prince's residence and a third was fired but has yet to be found.

Left-wing radicals plan to wreck Japan's high-speed "Bullet" trains by dropping cars off bridges onto railway tracks in a campaign against the summit, a mass-circulation newspaper said yesterday.

The Yomiuri Shimbun said de-coded strategy plans from the Chukaku-Ha (Core Faction) listed about 30 bridges crossing over the high speed line west of the central city of Shizuoka as possible sites to drop the cars.

Police said they were not aware of the car drop plot but said they had seized documents from the hideout of a Chukaku-Ha activist arrested on charges of attempted murder.

The documents included instructions for making bombs.

## San Francisco quake shakes city before dawn

SAN FRANCISCO (AP). — A strong earthquake early yesterday rocked skyscrapers in the San Francisco area, knocked down power lines and roused tens of thousands of people from their sleep. Three minor injuries were reported.

The earthquake, the third in the region in three days, had a magnitude of 5.3 on the Richter scale, said the U.S. Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado. The state Office of Emergency Services estimated it at 5.6, meaning it was capable of considerable damage.

It was centred 16 km east of Fremont, or about 72 km southeast of San Francisco.

## 44 killed in worst Mozambican plane crash

MAPUTO (Reuters). — A Mozambican transport aircraft crashed in the northern province of Cabo Delgado on Sunday killing 44 people, including the wife of Defence Minister Alberto Chipande, it was officially announced yesterday.

A statement issued by the political bureau of the ruling Frelimo Party said the Antonov-26 aircraft crashed soon after taking off from the coastal town of Pemba, about 250 kilometres south of the Tanzanian border. It was the nation's worst air disaster.

## Eleven die as Italian wine scandal spreads

ROME (AFP). — The Italian wine scandal yesterday continued to spread panic with 11 dead and 40 in the hospital, as police investigate five makers suspected of adding methanol acid to their product.

The latest victim was 54-year-old Angelo Mascaro, who died in hospital in Turin on Saturday after drinking wine from one of the suspect firms.

The methanol, which can be legally added in small doses to give "body" to wine, causes dizziness, vomiting, eye trouble and death if present in large quantities.

## South African students meet ANC officials

HARARE, Zimbabwe (Reuters). — Eight white South African students held a second day of talks yesterday with officials of the outlawed African National Congress. The main black group pledged to overthrow the Pretoria government, sources close to the talks said.

The talks are the latest in a series of contacts between the ANC and South African groups, including white business leaders, opposition politicians, trade unionists and churchmen, which have incurred South African government displeasure.

## Police hurt blocking Northern Ireland march

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland (Reuters). — Clashes erupted yesterday when several hundred Protestants hurled rocks and bottles at police blocking them from parading through the centre of Portadown, a police spokesman said.

He said police responded by firing plastic bullets. Two officers suffered serious head injuries and at least eight others were hurt in the fighting, he said, adding that one of the seriously injured men was blinded at least temporarily.

The clashes followed an illegal march late Sunday night by some 3,000 Protestants who paraded past a Catholic housing estate in Portadown.

## Horse-drawn British buggies to improve Petra transport

PETRA, Jordan (Reuters). — Horse-drawn carriages from Britain are being introduced to modernize the transportation at Petra, the famed ancient Nabatean archaeological site.

The dramatic entrance to Petra, Jordan's most-visited tourist site, lies through a deep sandstone gorge less than five metres wide at its narrowest point.

It is famed for its Nabatean tombs carved out of the solid rockface — including the breathtaking al-Khazna just inside the entrance — temples, a Roman amphitheatre, road and triumphal arch, and the ruins of a nymphaeum, or public fountain.

An hour's walk up a mountain at one end of the valley is a huge monastery, also carved out of rock. On a clear day, visitors can see Sinai, the Negev and Israel on the horizon.

Ordinary tourists approach the ruins by foot or on horseback led by local Beduin, while government guests raise annoying clouds of choking dust when driven in by jeep.

Tourist officials say the British-made wooden carriages, expected to

be delivered soon, will preserve the charm and atmosphere of Petra, 260 km. south of Amman. They should prove a boon, particularly to elderly visitors, in the summer heat.

Petra, once described by a European poet as "a rose red city half as old as time," has become one of the major tourist attractions of the Middle East with the construction of good roads to the area.

Air-conditioned buses or limousines whisk the tourist from Amman in three hours, while the government has built a luxury hotel and rest houses at a small town near Petra.

The city, an important station on trading routes to the East, became until 63 B.C.E. the seat of a rich and powerful kingdom which ruled over Damascus and Philadelphia, the present-day Amman.

The Nabatean power later declined. Petra fell to the Romans and its importance waned with the opening of other trade routes. It was finally abandoned following an earthquake which destroyed the Roman city in 363 C.E.

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## MARKET PLACE

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## Behind the figures

The Bank Leumi results published yesterday leave no room for doubt anymore. Whereas First International could be regarded as unrepresentative, Leumi, as the biggest of the main banks, confirms the pattern emerging from the figures published to date by the smaller banks.

What happened in 1985 was that the Israeli banks made a fortune from enormous profit-margins on unlinked shekels. The fact that this sector represented only a few per cent of their total activities, and that on most of the rest they made little or nothing, only makes the result more remarkable. The question is what will happen this year, when these margins have already shrunk into a shadow of what they were.

For the moment the financial system is dominated by the effects of this phenomenon last year. On the one hand, operating income swelled dramatically. On the other, operating profits - both at First International and at Leumi - dropped by 5-10%. The explanation for this contradiction lies in the huge provisions made for bad debts, which represented two-thirds of the net profits of First International and twice the net profits of Leumi.

These interlinked figures, the fall in operating profits and the rise in bad debts, are the ones that matter, not the shrinking of the balance sheet that stems from the revaluation of the shekel.

What do these figures mean? The superficial, popular analysis is that the banks charged very high interest and thereby caused the bankruptcy of many otherwise healthy firms. In this view, they were lost on their own petard, because the source of their profits was the source of their losses, as the bad debts mounted.

For those who see the banking system as the source of all evil, this Hamas-type scenario with the banks being hung on the tree they prepared for innocent borrowers, serves well. Others will realize that only companies already in dire straits were pushed into oblivion by high interest rates.

Their analysis says that the banks raked in huge profits in 1985. They then used these profits to clean out piles of garbage from their balance sheets. Elscint is a fine example of the banks' thinking, because some of them wanted to kill it and write off the loans this year. Who knows how much profit we'll have next year and how many more bad debts there'll be then, went the logic.

This, at least in the case of First International and Leumi, was what was done. Whether the other banks had the sense - or the ability - to do the same thing, remains to be seen. At Leumi they made so much profit that it covered not only bad debts but also the poor investments that Leumi Investment Company made together with Danot.

The bank also sold off the pile of government bonds it had left from early redemptions of savings schemes. Instead of letting them weigh on its financing capability, Leumi took the loss and freed the money for more profitable uses.

These are the reasons why the managers of Leumi and First International are so pleased with what are, in terms of the bare figures, rotten results which they ought to be ashamed of. Ask any housewife how she feels after cleaning out the places she never usually gets to; she's not embarrassed at the junk that piled up, just happy to see it in the garbage can.

## 1970 Defence Loan redeemed from today

Post Finance Reporter  
The Bank of Israel has announced that the redemption of the 1970 compulsory Defence Loan will commence today when certificates of "group 1" fall due. Subsequent groups will be redeemed each month, through March 1987.

All the groups will be redeemed according to the Consumer Price Index published for December 1985, in line with the original Defence Loan Law of 1970. On this basis, holders of the loan will receive NIS 93.92 for each IL 100 nominal value of certificates they possess. The public as a whole holds \$51,000 certificates, worth some NIS 311 million in total.

Certificates held on deposit in the banking system will be redeemed automatically and the owner's account credited. Those holding the certificate themselves, may redeem them at the Bank of Israel's offices in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa.

## A change of emphasis in U.S.-Israel relations

By STEF WERTHEIMER  
Special to The Jerusalem Post  
The record is clear. On November 29, 1947, under the leadership of President Harry Truman, the U.S. supported the resolution of the UN General Assembly calling for the establishment of a Jewish State.

Since then, the American people have generously extended political and economic support to ensure a secure Israel. This, to some extent, was based on an emotional reaction to the Holocaust, but it was also a spinoff from the Cold War. Russia was also looking for ways to gain influence in the Middle East - and Israel, Jordan and later on, to an increasing extent, Saudi Arabia, were viewed by the two superpowers as the only countries in the area oriented to the West.

In 1973 two events - the Yom Kippur War and Opec's action on oil prices - brought a new dimension into the East-West world conflict. Inexorably the world economy was thrown off balance. Subsequent events like the prolonged military struggle in Lebanon, the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran, and a series of international terrorist acts culminating in the Achille Lauro affair, proved once again that the Middle East has its own rules; and that Israel alone represents a democratic, Western-oriented society.

Until oil prices tumbled, however, many preferred not to acknowledge

these realities, and continued to play "the Middle East game."

Today it is of vital importance that Americans understand what Israel needs most in order to strengthen its position now and on into the 21st century. As in the past, Americans continue to think in terms of providing weapons, as a safeguard against attack. This is still a correct reading of the situation to some extent, but this approach has certain built-in limitations.

Consider, for example, the effects on the youth in a country which seems to be obsessively concerned with security and foreign affairs.

It is no surprise that at an age when a young person's personal and professional development should be in full flower, many of them finally become fed up with what seems to them an exaggerated emphasis on these two subjects. They travel to the U.S. to try their luck in what undeniably is, in many ways, a more "normal" society.

What Israel requires now from America is the kind of support that was given to Europe and Japan after World War II. Created by General George C. Marshall, the Marshall Plan had the combined objectives of helping countries rebuild their economies through a revival of industrial capacity, over the short range. Over the long range, it aimed at bringing the countries politically into the Western orbit, via long term



Stef Wertheimer

cooperative programmes with regard to defence.

Israel is and always has been politically a part of the West. It is a mistake for Americans to equate Israel with other aid countries, whose political status is still, or always was, in question.

A Marshall Plan approach, involving commercial investments, joint ventures, private corporate activities of various types - all these would serve to achieve a more effective balance of Israel's resources.

Parallel with the necessary funds to defence, other types of aid to promote industry would begin a process of healing for the entire region. As Israel's exports grew, the ability to create jobs would expand to include her neighbours. This, in turn, would move the peace process along at the grassroots level, which un-

doubtedly would be more effective and bring longer-lasting benefits than the present political stalemate.

If government intervention in the Israeli economy were decreased, and the entrepreneurial sectors strengthened, democratic processes in Israel would grow stronger. Investments, in place of grants, would help Israel increase its export potential, make it possible to reduce its tax rates - among the highest in the world - and provide an exciting challenge to keep her young people at home. Genuine progress could be made in the entire region. And Americans and our neighbours would get a return on the investment.

In Europe and Japan after 1945, the American people planted the seeds for the economic miracles that are today's realities. At this point in American-Israeli relations, let's give enterprise and industry a free hand to provide a dynamic new type of therapy, a healing process in the Middle East, joining together diverse peoples and cultures under a proven, made-in-U.S. programme, that offers a meta-political challenge.

## Shipping cartel v. small fry

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER  
Jerusalem Post Reporter  
HAIFA. - The fight by the big shipping companies against competition by smaller "outsiders" has surfaced again.

Zim and five other Israeli and foreign companies are running what amounts to a cartel on routes between Israel, the Continent and Britain. They maintain fixed cargo rates, following years of cut-throat competition, which all but sank all of them.

With the signing of an agreement on higher rates between the conferences and the Shippers Council yesterday, the council demanded that the cartel withdraw its 40 per cent "punitive" clause for shippers who send part of their cargo with "outside" companies. These three companies operate six small ships between them and charge lower rates.

The Zim spokesman told The Jerusalem Post that the clause was "standard" for shipping contracts and was not "punitive." It "only

offers special rates to traders who agree to ship exclusively on our ships. If they prefer not to sign, they must pay the full rate, which is 40 per cent higher."

Zim and its partners have no intention of withdrawing the clause, he said. He conceded, however, that 40 per cent was quite a hefty reduction. Meanwhile, Trans-Clal, a Clal subsidiary, has finally given up its plan to run a competitive line to Europe, using Bulgarian ships which would come as far as Cyprus. The decision follows strong opposition to the scheme.

Transport Minister Haim Corfu, apparently not up to date on developments, last week told the Knesset in answer to a member's question that the scheme was being put into practice.

Opposition came from Zim and its staff, who appealed all the way up to Prime Minister Shimon Peres against the use of ships of a country that refuses to renew its relations with Israel or even allow its ships to call at Israeli ports.

## GAZA

(Continued from Page One)

pected stone-throwers, military sources said. According to a spokeswoman for Bir Zeit, two students suffered gunshot wounds and four others were hurt by rubber bullets.

At 11 a.m. some 100 students set up a stone roadblock on the main road outside the campus, burned tires, shouted pro-PLO slogans and hoisted the Palestinian flag, the spokeswoman said. Military sources said the students also stoned Israeli vehicles.

An army unit arrived and fired tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. Students suspected of stone-throwing were ordered to halt, the military sources said. But when they fled, the troops fired warning shots into the air. Two students who kept running were shot in the legs, the military sources said.

The students retreated into the campus, which was subsequently surrounded by the IDF. At 3 p.m., under an agreement with the army, the students peacefully left the campus and the troops withdrew.

One of the wounded students was taken by military ambulance to Hadassah Hospital on Mt. Scopus.

The two other wounded students were admitted to the al-Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem.

A curfew was imposed from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. yesterday at the northern outskirts of Jericho after two petrol bomb attacks Sunday night. One bomb was thrown at an army vehicle leaving the town but missed. Another was hurled at a group of soldiers sitting at a restaurant in the area. No one was hurt in the incident.

An Israeli vehicle struck an anti-personnel mine north of Jericho on Sunday night. No one was hurt.

Students demonstrated yesterday at the a-Tira Teachers' Seminary for Women, in Ramallah, and threw stones at passing Israeli vehicles. The women were dispersed by Israeli troops.

In Beit Sahur, the army broke up a demonstration at a school and detained several pupils.

## PERES

(Continued from Page One)

The official, who asked not to be named, said that administration was "obviously looking forward to talking with him in greater substance about it during his visit."

But the official then pointedly added: "In a more general sense, in this Gramm-Rudman-Hollings year, it's very difficult for me to conceive of where we're going to be able to find additional resources to put into the area. If there is going to be any new initiative, I think it's going to be necessary to mobilize resources more universally and not rely solely on the U.S. to finance such a plan."

The official said that if Peres is determined to explore the possibilities, the U.S. would want to discuss the subject with other Western industrialized states "when it's fleshed out a little more."

U.S. officials dismissed as "a probable non-starter" another recently floated Israeli proposal whereby Israel would repay a significant portion of its annual interest payments to the U.S. in shekels, rather than dollars. Israel currently has to allocate about \$1 billion a year

to service its debt to the U.S.

A decision to allow Israel to use shekels, rather than dollars, would almost certainly require new appropriation legislation by Congress - an unlikely development in the prevailing budget cutting mood in Washington.

Peres, who is expected to spend considerable time discussing Israel's economic problems with Shultz today, is not expected to learn when Israel will get the remaining \$750 million in emergency economic grants approved last year.

U.S. officials said that Israel's current balance of payments situation had improved, and that there was therefore no immediate need for the extra money, which must be disbursed by October 1. All or part can be made available between now and October.

In an interview with Cable News Network, Peres acknowledged the current "pause" in the Arab-Israeli peace process. He again urged Jordan's King Hussein to abandon the PLO and to come up with alternative Palestinian representatives from the West Bank and Gaza.

## NRP

(Continued from Page One)

beginning April 27, Rubinstein's spokesman announced yesterday. The minister has reached agreement with the Civil Servants Union on the change.

The spokesman also said that the minister intended to ask the Bezek telecommunications company to go over to summer time. Among other things, the change would affect the hours during which lower rates apply for phone calls.

The Bezek spokesman said last night that the firm had not yet heard from Rubinstein on the matter. He was unable to say whether a shift to in-house summer time would move the clock an hour forward at the "15" dial-the-time service.

In another development, a study of road accident statistics in 1984-85 has shown that fewer accidents occurred during the past two years, when summer time was in effect,

than in the previous two-year period.

The study was conducted by Dr. Eliahu Richter of the medical school and school for public health at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Hospital. He compared the number of accidents in 1982-83, with figures for 1984-85. Richter has sent his findings to the head of the summer time committee.

There were 45 fewer fatal accidents and 344 fewer minor accidents. Children were spared 16 fatal accidents because of the longer daylight hours, Richter claimed. He said the chance of being killed on the road between 6 and 8 p.m. was reduced by summer time, but as a result of the time change it was more dangerous to be on the road between 4 and 6 a.m. But he pointed out that many more people are on the roads in the evening than in the early morning.

## MARKET STATISTICS

## Indices:

General Share Index	114.56	+0.72%
Non-Bank Index	130.57	+1.03%
Arrangement	107.38	+0.53%
Insurance	144.19	-0.90%
Commerce, Services	135.89	+0.89%
Real Estate	159.96	+1.47%
Industrials	122.2	+0.84%
Textiles	148.42	+1.13%
Metals	113.56	+0.91%
Electronics	104.04	-0.05%
Chemicals	120.08	+1.56%
Industrial Invt.	122.74	+0.39%
Investment Cos.	137.13	+1.36%
General Bond Index	102.48	+0.23%
Index-linked Bonds	102.33	+0.19%
Fully-linked	103.52	+0.19%
Partially-linked	101.58	+0.18%
Dollar-linked Bonds	100.75	+0.40%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	102.08	+0.18%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	102.07	+0.17%
Long-term 5+ yrs	101.79	+0.15%

## Turnovers:

Shares - total	NIS 10,199,800
Arrangement	NIS 3,265,400
Non-bank	NIS 6,934,400
Bonds - total	NIS 6,118,200
Index-linked	NIS 2,754,200
Dollar-linked	NIS 3,362,000
Treasury Bills	NIS 5,185,600

## Share Movements:

Advances	201 (138)
of which 5%+	66 (34)
"buyers only"	18 (7)
Declines	71 (163)
of which 5%+	25 (39)
"sellers only"	0 (18)
Unchanged	107 (97)
Trading Halt	60 (50)

## Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked	Rises to 3%
3% fully-linked	

4.25% fully-linked	Falls to 3%
80% linked	Mixed to 1%
Double-linked	Stable
Dollar-linked	Stable/falls to 3%
Admon	Stable/falls to 1.5%
Rimon	Mixed/falls to 1%
Gilboa	Rises to 3%
For. Curr.	
denominated	Stable
Treasury Bills	1.33% to 1.59%
(monthly yield)	

## Arrangement yields:

IDB ord.	11.03%
Union 0.1	10.76%
Advestin 1	11.49%
Mizrahi r.	11.24%
Hapoalim r.	11.70%
General A	11.21%
Leumi stock	no trading
Fin. Trade I	10.36%

## SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%
			100NIS change

<b>Commercial Banks</b>			
(not part of "arrangement")			
Maritime 1	1226	4894	+1.4
General non-arr.	32500	133	+4.8
First Int'l	3600	3149	-
FBI	3795	6358	+4.0

<b>Commercial Banks</b>			
(part of "arrangement")			
IDB 1	62900	1065	+2.2
Union 0.1	62000	234	+2.4
Discount	104800	664	+0.6
Mizrahi	33900	418	+1.0
Hapoalim r.	56385	1736	+0.0
General A	143150	19	+0.1
Leumi 0.1	no trading		
Fin. Trade	48180	4	+2.1

<b>Mortgage Banks</b>			
Leumi Mort. r.	4250	1034	-4.1
Dev. Mort.	1107	1402	+2.9
Mishkan r.	2220	287	+4.2
Tefahot r.	12000	1	-
Merav r.	3270	1382	-0.9

<b>Financial Institutions</b>			
Agric C	35500	4	+4.4
Ind. Dev. DD	no trading		
Clal Leasing 0.1	10200	132	+3.4

<b>Insurance</b>			
Ararat 0.1 r	4261	441	+0.0
Haasah r	2900	10369	-
Phoenix 0.1	1200	727	-3.2
Hamishmar	6550	167	+2.2
Menorah 1	5400	840	-8.9
Sahar r	4875	830	-0.6
Zion Hold. 1	12405	277	-

<b>Trade &amp; Services</b>			
Meir Eara	4598	565	-
Supersol 2	4200	714	-
Delek r	4385	579	+1.2
Lightstar	9236	50	+4.5
Cold Storage	1062	765	+4.9
Dan Hotels	4430	690	-
Yarden Hotel	3325	411	-5.0
Hilton 1	11258	43	-10.4
Team 1	1898	452	+10.0

<b>Real Estate, Building and Agriculture</b>			
Azorim	4100	1852	+2.8
Elion	1820	3911	+8.0
Africa Int. 0.1	40900	71	+1.0
Danrur	3850	794	-2.5
Prop. & Bldg.	2670	1599	+1.5
Bayshore 0.1	4245	25	-0.0
ILDC r	44800	168	-
Ressco r	8010	307	+9.1
Mehadrin	6300	614	-
Hadarim	1225	2898	-

<b>Industrials</b>			
Dubek b	3445	890	-
Pr-Za 1	2500	2598	+8.7
Sunifrost	9628	217	-
Elita	14490	241	-0.1
Adgar	747	1104	+0.3
Argaman r	8050	554	+2.8
Delta G 1	4690	118	-
Maquette 1	21399	87	-0.2
Eagle 1	10300	91	+6.0
Poiget 0.1	6700	322	-
Schoellerma	16800	26	+2.2
Rogovin	no trading		
Urden 0.1 r	9400	382	+2.7
Is. Can Co. 1	1024	2136	-
Zion Cables	2150	726	-
Pecker Steel	4990	216	-
Elbit 3 r	415000	23	-

Elron	401700	16	-
Arit	no trading		
Clal Electronics	2800	1297	-
Spectronix 1	1870	1084	-0.5
T.A.T. 1	3570	197	+2.7
Advestin 1	1580	1059	+5.0
Agan 5	19550	125	+4.5
Alliance	1329	306	-0.7
Dexter	3245	65	+5.0
Fertilisers	10500	b.o.i.	+5.0
Haifa Chem.	970	5364	+4.8
Teva r	55550	206	+0.6
Dead Sea r	14120	536	-
Petrochem.	462	24950	-
Neca Chem.	3639	28	+5.0
Frutaron	10489	467	+9.4
Hadara Paper	150700	48	+0.1
Central Trade	6300	200	+0.5
Koor p	4850000	0	-
Clal Inds.	1470	7501	-

Alfa Chem.	870	5364	+4.8
Avia r	55550	206	+0.5
Dead Sea r	14120	536	-
Electrochem.	462	24950	-
Leica Chem.	3539	28	+5.0
Rotatom	10499	467	+9.4
Sladara Paper	190700	48	+0.1
Central Trade	6300	200	+0.5
Door p	4850000	0	-
tal Inds.	1470	7601	-
<b>Investment Companies</b>			



# THE JERUSALEM POST

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## Time for summer time

THROUGHOUT Europe, summer time arrived on Sunday this week and will last until fall.

The arrival was accompanied by no fanfare and it required no fresh administrative fiat: the advantages of what is also widely known as daylight saving time - not least the significant lowering of energy costs - had been plain enough not only in Europe but in America as well for many years. In any case, there was no opposition to the measure from any quarter. Orthodox Jews in the European diaspora did not complain that summer time made it intolerably difficult for them to say their morning prayers. And for good reason, too: summer time merely re-establishes the perfectly tolerable light conditions of winter time.

In Israel, a special committee on summer time is to submit its recommendations in the matter, based in part of the experience of last year's summer time, to the interior minister, Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz, later today.

The minister's failure to have that committee appointed - as his spokesman said it would be - a few days after September 28 of last year, and his tarrying with the appointment until late in February, has been seen as a deliberate delaying tactic. In any case Peretz has never concealed his hostility to summer time.

But according to a rival theory Rabbi Peretz was only going through the motions of opposition to please the more benighted section of his constituency, and in fact was waiting for the committee to force his hand in favour of summer time. For he, too, could not blink the obvious fact that summer time is favoured by a majority not only of secular and traditional but of Orthodox Jews as well. The endorsement of summer time by the NRP yesterday was open recognition of the fact.

If so, the minister's seemingly delighted discovery, a few weeks ago, that some European statistics indicated a rise in road accidents as a result of summer time, could only have been designed to hide his true sentiments. That these statistics were, at best, or worst, irrelevant to Israeli conditions had already been made clear in a study by Technion expert Dr. Moshe Becker. This week a public health expert at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, Dr. Eliahu Richter, reported on his own independent study which showed that, on balance, summer time reduced rather than increased the incidence of road accidents, especially those of them leading to death.

It is inconceivable that the committee, or for that matter Rabbi Peretz, should ignore these findings, which decisively remove *pikuh nefesh* as an issue in any sensible discussion of summer time. What remains is the sort of argument adduced by ex-chief rabbi Shlomo Goren in protesting that, under summer time, a young Jewish child must be put to bed long before his father returns from synagogue to begin the Sabbath rites. And, more recently, that *vox populi* is no proper consideration in a Jewish state since, as Rabbi Goren sagely put it, "The word democracy does not appear in the Bible."

Since these are not easily acceptable arguments in a democracy, there is some reason to hope that the committee, and Rabbi Peretz, will come down on the side of reason in the matter of summer time.

## Budget battle fog

WITH THE CLOCK staring down on it, the Knesset last night passed the budget bill. Good, bad or indifferent, there it is, the budget.

In Sunday's cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Peres again demonstrated his inexhaustible patience and Florentine skills in striking the necessary budget "package deals". Thus the financial rescue of Kupat Holim. Solel Boneh and the cotton farmers was set against approval of the tax increases on which Finance Minister Moda'i had insisted, plus a still vague promise to balance the bailout of Solel Boneh by coming to the aid of other ailing construction firms.

All this was a foregone conclusion, because even a pure Likud government could not stand idly by and see Kupat Holim collapse. Solel Boneh go into receivership, and 600,000 dunams of cotton fields lie fallow.

Relief from the results of an economic policy that had to use the axe rather than the scalpel for undertakings which in a small economy have no substitute, is politically, socially and economically unavoidable, even if they were brought to the brink of bankruptcy partly through their own fault.

The unavoidable rescue operations have unfortunately been presented not as the national imperatives they are, but as the products of a sordid struggle for power and as travesties of economic rationality. That the Likud, with its ingrained resentment of Labour's enduring historical role in the economy should so see it is not surprising. That Labour should join that game by agreeing to politically "compensatory" bailouts of distressed enterprises patronized by the Likud can only be explained in terms of dire political necessity.

The pseudo-economic debate that fogs reality has promptly greeted Sunday's bailout package with cries of distress: the budget framework has been breached it is said; there will be an injection of cash into the economy that may send the economy back into hyper-inflation; money set aside for new enterprises will be used to preserve those that exist.

Much of this is balderdash. The budget contains no provision for growth. The government's decision, a few weeks ago, to relax its hold on the accumulated cash of the pension and provident funds, and to allow them to buy bonds to be issued by banks and business enterprises, was outside the budget and is still hedged by all kinds of provisos. In fact, the budget has explicitly said no to any of the basic reforms that are the elementary precondition for reviving growth. Those who now bemoan the rescue package as a deathblow to growth are grieving over an unborn child.

Will there be an inflationary money injection? Not as far as the rescheduling of debts is concerned - debts that were largely incurred as a result of a crazy monetary policy. The cash printed by the government will go to the banks. If the central bank does its job, that cash will not reach the market for goods and services. It will not have an inflationary impact so long as it does not go beyond debt consolidation.

Since no real resources are involved, the bailouts do not compete with growth, as the finance minister implied when he suggested that if the prime minister wants resources for growth, he had better get them in the U.S. The real resources - foreign currency saved from the windfall gains of falling oil and commodity prices, and from the devaluation of the dollar and the shekel with it - are still there. They are still being sterilized in the foreign currency reserves to maintain stagnation.

## Suspicion Saves!

Don't take chances

Report suspicious objects! Dial 100.

# Avoiding rotation

DAVID TWERSKY

ACCORDING to the official rules of baseball, there are different advantages to batting first and to batting last. The team that bats first often sets the pace of the game; the second team gets "last looks," a last chance to score in the bottom of the ninth.

The rules of Israeli politics bear an only superficial similarity to this. The four-year tenure of the prime minister's office was split in half, and Labour used its razor-thin Knesset edge to insist that Peres would be up at bat first. Should the national unity government survive, Yitzhak Shamir will then occupy the office, and the Likud will get their last looks. But there is nothing in the rules to guarantee that the coalition will survive. Labour's top half of the inning can turn into early elections or a narrow, *sans* Likud, coalition.

Shimon Peres has used his office to set the government agenda. Overriding the opposition of most of the Likud ministers. Peres won majority backing to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon, and to begin the painful process of economic recovery.

In both cases some Likud ministers "defected" to the cabinet majority; in both cases most Likud ministers refused, even under national unity cover, to back the emergency remedies to afflictions that were the direct consequences of their years in power. Peres also stretched the government's consensus to the limit in pursuit of formulae to allow for progress on Israel's eastern front.

The Labour prime minister has skillfully demonstrated the power of the office to alter public political perceptions, and to rearrange, even slightly, the parameters of public discourse. Peres himself has risen like a phoenix from the ashes of his once legendary unpopularity to top the charts. His new popularity allows him to reestablish the premises of Labour's conception of peace and compromise, which suffered delegitimization during the Likud years. Ironically, Likud's demonization of Peres during the last two general elections may now boomerang; if he was the major reason people voted

IS EGGED interested in policing itself? Does it investigate complaints against its drivers and inform the complainant of the results? Is its public relations department worth anything?

If the above lines ring a bell, it is because they are taken from an article of mine published in these columns a year ago - on March 17, 1985 - and which drew a furious reply from Egged spokesman Gideon Talmor.

But a recent experience leads me to think that the three questions are still legitimate. About a year ago Egged announced that buses on the Haifa-Jerusalem route arriving in Jerusalem in the evening would not end their run at the central bus station. They would continue on Jaffa Road, Princess Mary, Agron and Ramban streets, discharging passengers at stops along the way.

This service had been in effect a few years for Tel Aviv-Jerusalem express buses, apparently in order to compete with *sherut* taxis. But the chances that a particular driver on the Haifa-Jerusalem route will observe the rule are about 3:2. When he doesn't, one or more passengers generally protests, and the driver either says that he never heard of such a rule, or that it doesn't apply so early in the evening.

A FEW months ago (last November 17) I wrote to Egged's PR office in Jerusalem about such a case. The evening before, the driver of the 945 bus that reached Jerusalem at 9:20 entered the central bus station. When I asked him why he didn't continue along Jaffa Road, he said:

"No one told me to. If they had told me, I would have done it."

The Jerusalem office sent me a form letter on November 27, informing me that my letter had been referred to the Tel Aviv office since the driver belonged to that district.

Over six weeks later, on January 12, I sent the Tel Aviv office a reminder, and, not having heard from them by February 20, I wrote spokesman Talmor. On March 2, I received a letter from the Tel Aviv office, dated February 24, presumably a consequence of my letter to Talmor.

The letter informed me that the driver had been summoned for a "disciplinary clarification" before Egged's ombudsman, who "regarded the incident with gravity and decided to fine the driver in accordance with our cooperative's disciplinary rules... The complaint was entered into his personal file."

What about PR's three-month silence? That's taken care of in the last sentence of the letter: "Our apology for the unexpected delay in the completion of the examination of the complaint."

I like that word completion.

THE QUESTION is why the Tel Aviv office didn't give me a sign of life during all those weeks. Is it cynical to wonder whether the complaint would have been dealt with if I had not sent two reminders?

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against his party, he may now become Labour's major draw.

PERES let out diplomatic rope to Hussein and Mubarak, and to the Palestinians, in order to bridge the gap to negotiations and to isolate and highlight the Arab factors resisting the peace process. After years in which Likud seemed happy to have the world blame Israel (and its Lebanon and settlement policies) for the collapse of the peace process, Peres has come as something of a relief.

But he has been rather more successful with the second goal than with the first. The world is more aware of the restraints on progress imposed by Arab extremism. But Peres's rope, tied to the rotation, has come up short.

The rotation agreement is politically suicidal for Labour. Everything Peres and his colleagues have gained will be squandered. By the time Likud gets its last looks in voters - the small percentage of "soft" Likud voters who might float over to Labour - will recall Labour as the party of economic sanctions and sacrifice and the Likud as the party of plenty. Likud will run as "Dr. Feelgood" against the Labour "mad doctor" who cut wages and living standards.

Peres's assurances to his party's central committee that after rotation, government policy will remain substantially the same should be taken with a generous dose of salt. After all, Shamir will do unto Peres as Peres did unto him, but at least with Peres as prime minister, there was foreign policy action for Peres to top Shamir out of. Something might survive of Peres's popularity, but one imagines that as foreign minister he will be recalled, if at all, as a former prime minister who did a good job a long time ago.

Those undisturbed by the possibility of Labour's suicide, should consider this: Likud's last looks will endanger the progress Israel has made

along all fronts in the past year-and-a-half. The trade unions, untrained by the need to play ball with a Labour prime minister, will heat up the domestic wage front.

Whatever slender chance still exists for progress on the eastern front will be reduced to nil again as a result of the government's commitment to settlements, and to avoiding diplomatic initiatives.

Egypt will be faced with an Israel run by a prime minister and his heir apparent who both opposed the Camp David Accords, and who remain undisposed to any new display of diplomatic flexibility.

Israel will have to deal with the complex and potentially explosive problems of Syria and Lebanon with the same crew at the helm who got us into Lebanon and who refused to vote in favour of extricating the IDF from Lebanon.

Arik Sharon and David Levy, whose power was enhanced by the peculiar twists of fate at the Herut convention, will be in a position to dictate policy to Prime Minister Shamir. The prime minister will be unable to deliver his associates in a cabinet compromise. With his own house aflame, he cannot govern.

The likelihood that Shamir would enter the prime minister's office in October 1986 has been a major factor in Jordanian and Egyptian - not to mention American - thinking. It was the barely concealed text in the numerous speeches in 1985 arguing for the peace process to "begin before the end of the year."

NOW, less than seven months before the rotation deadline, it is clear that the factors restraining progress towards peace, principally the combination of PLO and Syrian obstructionism, but also the lack of clear resolve in Cairo and Amman, were stronger than the threat of a Shamir return to office.

The moderate Arabs will not "save" Labour from facing its tough decisions alone. This has already undercut both Labour's preference for a territorial compromise and Likud's public commitment to Camp

David autonomy. Labour is looking at a variety of unilateral interim solutions; Likud is considering Sharon's call for a return to annexation. Peres described this new twist in the Israeli debate during his last visit to London. "Should Israel remain alone, without a Jordanian response and without Palestinian readiness to talk, we will face our own moment of truth. We will then find ourselves embroiled in a great national debate between those who will have despaired of any chance to achieve a settlement and those who will try and keep this option alive."

In the year in which the Knesset, and the national consensus, cannot agree to place racism beyond the pale, Israelis should realize the price of achieving peace extracts. Given the stakes, getting out of the rotation agreement becomes a series of tactical questions: how to sell it to the unconverted and what political constellation will follow the demise of the national unity govern-

ment? "National unity" was always a function of parliamentary numbers, and the numbers were always an expression of the national mood. If the mood has changed, if the numbers are different, there is no reason to honour an agreement that leads to an inevitably dishonourable conclusion.

Efforts should be made to form a Knesset majority for new elections, or to conjure up a majority for a narrow government out of the chaos in Herut and after the National Religious Party convention.

Political options exist. The national interest requires that the game end before the Likud gets its last looks. After all, the consequences of a baseball team's rally in the bottom of the ninth can be undone next game, or next season. The damage the Likud can do will take many seasons to repair.

The writer is the editor of *Spectrum*, the Israel Labour Movement monthly.

## Waiting for Egged

ARYEH RUBINSTEIN

Beyond that, doesn't PR know that there is a general problem here and not just an odd case now and then? That there may be instances where the driver is really ignorant of the rule? Why doesn't it again advertise the information about this service?

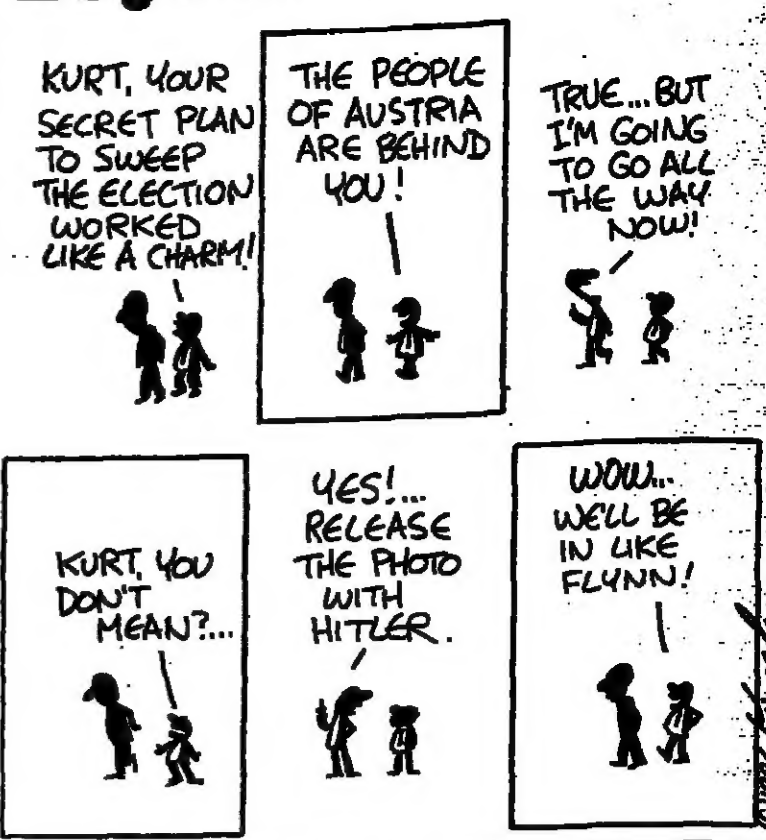
Why doesn't the Tel Aviv office immediately acknowledge receipt of any complaint transmitted to it by Jerusalem or Haifa? Failing that, why doesn't it inform the complainant in those cases that have not been settled within, say, three weeks?

In reaction to last year's article, one reader wrote me that the two cases I had described fitted a pattern he had detected. The initial complaint, he asserted, is politely acknowledged, but nine times out of ten that is the end of the matter. Egged doesn't make another move until the nudniks persist.

At the time, I considered that an interesting theory, but I am beginning to think that he really has something there. For if Egged is really working on the complaint, it should be happy to be able to report that to the complainant - even on a postcard.

UNTIL I FINALLY received Egged's letter, I did not know that it

## Dry Bones



David autonomy. Labour is looking at a variety of unilateral interim solutions; Likud is considering Sharon's call for a return to annexation.

Peres described this new twist in the Israeli debate during his last visit to London. "Should Israel remain alone, without a Jordanian response and without Palestinian readiness to talk, we will face our own moment of truth. We will then find ourselves embroiled in a great national debate between those who will have despaired of any chance to achieve a settlement and those who will try and keep this option alive."

In the year in which the Knesset, and the national consensus, cannot agree to place racism beyond the pale, Israelis should realize the price of achieving peace extracts. Given the stakes, getting out of the rotation agreement becomes a series of tactical questions: how to sell it to the unconverted and what political constellation will follow the demise of the national unity govern-

ment? "National unity" was always a function of parliamentary numbers, and the numbers were always an expression of the national mood. If the mood has changed, if the numbers are different, there is no reason to honour an agreement that leads to an inevitably dishonourable conclusion.

Efforts should be made to form a Knesset majority for new elections, or to conjure up a majority for a narrow government out of the chaos in Herut and after the National Religious Party convention.

Political options exist. The national interest requires that the game end before the Likud gets its last looks. After all, the consequences of a baseball team's rally in the bottom of the ninth can be undone next game, or next season. The damage the Likud can do will take many seasons to repair.

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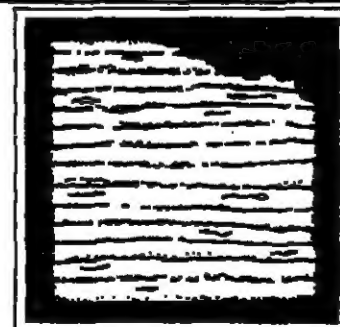
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